

STARS AND STRIPES.®

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Volume 76, No. 221 ©SS 2018

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 聖島新聞社 〒110-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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SAMPLING THE **local** flavor

US, Thai troops learn
survival skills in marquee
event of Cobra Gold exercise
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Ricky Gomez/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A U.S. servicemember drinks cobra blood during recent jungle survival training, which is part of Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khrem, Thailand.

School shooting survivors meet Florida lawmakers, seek action

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON,
JOSH REPLOGLE AND TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Survivors of the Florida school shooting descended on the state's Capitol on Wednesday with one overarching message: It's time for action.

The students entered a gun-friendly political climate in Tallahassee, where lawmakers have rebuffed gun restrictions since Republicans took control of the governor's office and the Legislature in 1999.

The students received attention and a warm reception, but politicians did not offer specific answers. The students' big-

gest wish — banning assault-type weapons such as the AR-15, the weapon used by suspect Nikolas Cruz — was taken off the table the previous day in the House.

"How is it possible that this boy that we all knew was clearly disturbed was able to get an assault rifle, military grade,

SEE SURVIVORS ON PAGE 9

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Military awards medals to 3 JROTC cadets who were killed in Parkland
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Diggins, Randall take team sprint to give US 1st cross-country gold

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PACIFIC

Fishermen seek compensation over F-16 mishap

By TYLER HLAVAC
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

Local fishermen are seeking compensation for a fishing ban imposed after a U.S. military aviation mishap this week in northern Japan.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to Misawa Air Base's 35th Fighter Wing dropped two external fuel tanks into Lake Ogawara after an engine caught fire shortly after takeoff Tuesday morning. No one was injured in the incident, and the aircraft was able to return safely to the base.

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Tuesday that officials spotted parts believed to be from the F-16 in the lake, and that the water surface was

smeared with oil.

The Lake Ogawara Fishing Association instituted the ban the same day, group officials told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. It will remain in effect until the tanks are removed and fuel is cleared from the water.

Since it is the height of fresh-water shellfish season, local fishermen are looking at a loss of up to \$37,000 per day from shellfish alone, the officials said.

Aomori Prefecture Gov. Shingo Mimura on Wednesday asked the Japan Self-Defense Forces to clean Lake Odawara, a Joint Chief Office spokesman said. Local leaders can make such requests after disasters or other emergencies.

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel have begun

preparations for the cleanup, the spokesman said.

OnoderatoldreportersWednesday that the Defense Ministry will assess the damage and then coordinate to compensate the fishermen.

A Tohoku Defense Bureau spokesman said the agency has requested that U.S. military officials take preventative measures and provide information about the incident.

Air Force officials said the accident is under investigation.

"The safety of our airmen and our Japanese neighbors is our number one priority during flying operations," Col. Scott Jobe, 35th Fighter Wing commander, said in a statement. "We will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the root cause of this

incident."

Japanese broadcaster NHK reported Wednesday that Jobe apologized to Misawa Vice Mayor Koichiro Matsui shortly after the incident, which is the latest in a string of mishaps involving U.S. military aircraft in Japan.

On Dec. 13, a CH-53E Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated from the aircraft and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's fence line. More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble that flew up during impact.

On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawan day care facility. In

October, a Super Stallion made an emergency landing in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area after an inflight fire. The aircraft was an almost total loss.

Last month, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis apologized to Onodera for the mishaps, which included the emergency landings of Okinawa-based Marine Corps helicopters. He also vowed to address the "important" issue of aircraft safety.

During their call, Onodera reportedly asked Mattis — a retired Marine four-star general — to take additional measures to prevent future mishaps.

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Navy helps rescue 3 fishermen adrift in the South Pacific

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has rescued three fishermen who had been adrift for more than a week in the South Pacific.

A 19-foot skiff was reported missing Feb. 12 after failing to return from a fishing expedition near Chuuk Lagoon in Micronesia. The boat carried food and water but no radios or safety equipment.

Sailors from Patrol Squadron Eight traveled to Guam from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to join the search at the request of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, a Navy statement said.

After searching on Tuesday for three hours, a P-8A Poseidon aircraft spotted the survivors and dropped a search-and-rescue kit that included food, water, medical supplies and communications and signaling equipment.

The fishermen were picked up by a police vessel a few hours later.

"It was incredibly rewarding to be a part of saving lives; it's what everyone joins the Navy to do," Lt. Miles Schumacher, the Poseidon's tactical coordinator, said in the statement.

"We successfully demonstrated the capability of the [maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft] community to react quickly and effectively to operational requirements in the farthest corners of the globe. Hopefully, this is just the first of many successful rescues by P-8A Poseidon aircrews."

The Jacksonville, Fla.-based Patrol Squadron 8 is currently deployed to the 7th Fleet. The squadron consists of seven P-8A Poseidons — the Navy's newest maritime patrol aircraft — operated by 12 combat aircrews.

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JASON HOWARD/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A P-8 Poseidon from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., arrives at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base on Oct. 5, 2016. A Poseidon aircrew aided in the rescue of three fishermen in the South Pacific this week.

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PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY RICKY GOMEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marines Corps

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division watch a Royal Thai Marine eat a scorpion during jungle survival training at Cobra Gold 2018 in Thailand.

Troops get taste of jungle in Cobra Gold

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

American troops slurped cobra blood and noshed on rats while learning how to survive in harsh environments during annual drills underway in Thailand.

This week's jungle survival training is one of the highlights of Cobra Gold, which began Feb. 13 and wraps up on Friday. It's the largest multinational military exercise in Southeast Asia, with more than 11,000 troops from 29 nations participating.

"We learned how to make fire out of bamboo and kindling, we learned how to make traps using banana rope and also learned how to cook a rat," Army Pfc. Alex Davis said in a Marine Corps statement.

"That was pretty interesting. That's not something you learn back in the states."

Thai jungle survival instructors then observed and assisted as U.S. and Thai troops showed off what they learned.

"The most beneficial training was learning the various resources for water," said Army Sgt. Dillon Sawyers. "We learned how to get water from the banana plant and figure out differ-

ent ways to get water other than streams and bodies of water."

Another source of water is cobra blood, which instructors poured into students' mouths. Marines later described the blood as tasting "fishy."

"When you are out there by yourself, you cannot worry about your emotions," Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Pairoj Prasansai, a Thai Reconnaissance Marine, said in an American Forces Network report last year. "When your life is on the line, you simply have to do what you have to do to survive. You have to value your life."

Now in its 37th year, Cobra Gold is aimed at improving coordination between U.S. forces and key allies in the region. It involves evacuation drills, disaster-relief missions and traditional military drills such as amphibious landings.

Participants include host Thailand, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and representatives from 22 other nations either observing or participating in a limited manner.

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Marines attend jungle survival training during Cobra Gold 2018.

EUROPE

Vicenza survey cites employment woes as top issue

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Respondents to a survey at the Army garrison here see unemployment and lost career opportunities as the top social problems, according to a recent survey.

More than 67 percent of the 685 people who took the survey on quality of life at U.S. Army Garrison Italy identified those issues as a major concern — findings that largely correspond with national surveys on military families.

“Work-life” imbalance drew the second-most responses at nearly 51 percent, followed closely by financial issues, according to the survey.

Most of the respondents — more than 60 percent — were women, and more than 40 percent were family members. The majority were in their 20s and 30s with college degrees, two cars and one or more children.

More than half of respondents said deployments and training caused family problems. More than a third checked off infidelity as one of the garrison’s family problems.

The idea of the survey was to get a sense of what the community needed in order to guide “how



PAOLO BOVO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers attend an Expert Infantryman Badge ceremony at Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy, on Feb. 15. A recent survey found spouse employment issues are among residents’ major concerns.

best to take limited resources and apply them to make a better community,” said Col. Erik Berdy, garrison commander, at a town hall meeting earlier this month.

The 50-question survey, said to be the first one presented by the garrison, was offered from Jan.

8 to Feb. 8. Officials reached out on social media, in the base newspaper and other outlets, offering free lunches and prizes to draw responses from the population of some 15,000 soldiers, civilians, family members and retirees.

Family members are the large-

est component, with about 5,800 attached to the garrison as of last year, compared with about 3,800 personnel on active duty.

The respondents identified a host of health concerns — alcohol and tobacco use, stress, depression and toxic leadership. The majority said they’d discuss their problems with a friend rather than a counselor or the chain of command.

Only 6 percent listed “engaged senior leaders” as a strength of the installation.

Some concerns listed by participants may be difficult to address. For instance, the garrison can’t change training and deployment schedules or provide more appointments at the health center or dental clinic, which fall under different commands.

Unemployment and underemployment are top problems for military spouses worldwide, according to a 2017 survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Military spouses, more than 92 percent of whom are women, sacrifice their careers to frequent moves, often to installations outside urban areas with few employment opportunities.

Almost half of spouses are unemployed, and many of the em-

ployed said they worked part-time or seasonally, although they’d prefer full-time work, according to the national survey. They said that a lack of two incomes caused stress and financial difficulty.

Military spouses are more highly educated than the general U.S. working population, the survey found. More than two-thirds said their skills and education were not being utilized.

Employment for spouses in Italy is especially difficult. It is governed by the status of forces agreement between the U.S. and Italy, which is much more restrictive than in Germany and many other countries. Family members must relinquish their SOFA privileges to obtain an Italian work permit, which denies them access to many base facilities and makes them subject to Italian taxes and legal jurisdiction.

There is no pending renegotiation of the SOFA.

Berdy said that garrison officials had made a trip to Rome to “formally engage” with U.S. and Italian SOFA counterparts to ask that the rules be less restrictive. “They’re fully aware of our position,” Berdy said.

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MILITARY

Maryland museum honors a former slave, Buffalo Soldier

By CHRIS KALTENBACH
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — When Augustus Walley was born in 1856, the United States considered him property.

A quarter-century later, he risked his life in service to that same nation. On a hot August day in 1881, Pvt. Walley's bravery and selflessness in battle kept one of his fellow soldiers alive, an act for which he would be granted the nation's highest military honor.

As one of the fabled Buffalo Soldiers, members of all-black regiments formed in the years following the Civil War, the Maryland-born Walley was part of a segregated Army. Though they fought in the same battles as their white counterparts, their options were limited, their status unequal, their advancement hard-fought.

"He entered the Army at a time when African Americans were not typically valued," said Joseph Balkoski, command historian for the Maryland National Guard and head of the Maryland Museum of Military History, a hidden gem housed in seven exhibit rooms at

Baltimore's Fifth Regiment Armory. "He helped establish that the African Americans could be very dedicated soldiers, and that was a very important step to take. Because later on, during World War I and World War II, that precedent was significant."

"He was a real pioneer," Walley's pioneering bravery and dedication to duty was honored Feb. 13 at the museum with the unveiling of a display including a reproduction uniform. In addition, one of the museum's rooms, the one housing artifacts and exhibits stretching from roughly the years after the Civil War to World War I, would be named in Walley's honor.

"Here's a guy who literally came from being a slave to being recognized with our country's highest honor," said Col. Charles S. Kohler, public affairs officer for the Maryland National Guard. "People need to embrace that, need to understand that history."

Augustus Walley was born in 1856 in Reisterstown. Freed at age 9, he worked as a laborer for the next 13 years.

After enlisting in the 9th U.S.

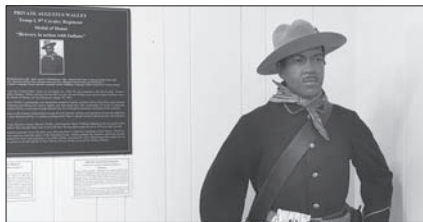
Cavalry in November 1878, his first tour of duty took him to the American frontier, where the Army was battling Indian tribes fighting to retain the land they had inhabited for generations.

Walley earned his Medal of Honor during an August 1881 engagement with Apaches in the Cuchillo Negro Mountains (known today as the Sierra Cuchillo), in what is now Southwestern New Mexico. Sent after a band of Apaches had attacked a nearby ranch, Walley was among a troop called upon to provide cover for a group of trapped soldiers. Although many were able to escape, one was too badly injured and remained behind.

"Walley grasped the situation," reads a plaque hanging inside the armory, "and in the greatest tradition of the cavalry mounted his horse and galloped to the fallen soldier, rescuing him and withdrawing under enemy fire to the rest of his unit."

His commanding officer, Lt. George R. Burnett, recommended Walley for the Medal of Honor. He received it on Oct. 1, 1890.

Discharged from the 9th Cav-



BARBARA HADDOCK TAYLOR, THE BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

A mannequin of Pvt. Augustus Walley, Medal of Honor recipient, Buffalo Soldier and Maryland native, is on display at the Maryland Museum of Military History.

alry in November 1883, he re-enlisted the next day in the 10th Cavalry, another Buffalo Soldier regiment. While fighting in Cuba during the 1898 Spanish-American War, he helped rescue a squadron commander, Maj. James Bell, under similar circumstances. Nominated for a second Medal of Honor, he was awarded instead a "certificate for gallantry in the preservation of human life" from his regimental commander.

That doesn't sit well with his great-niece, Betty Stokes, whose grandfather was Walley's half-brother. She thinks her great-uncle deserved that second Medal of Honor, and is lobbying for him to earn that honor posthumously.

Retiring from the Army in 1907, Walley settled in Butte, Mont., where he worked as a far-

rier, shoeing horses. When the U.S. entered World War I in 1917, Walley volunteered and, though too old for combat at 61, was sent to Camp Beauregard, La., to train draftees.

He returned from the Army for good in 1919 with the rank of 1st sergeant, having logged 31 years of military service. He returned to Baltimore. Augustus Walley died on April 9, 1938, at age 82.

Stokes is understandably proud of her great-uncle. And she's happy to see his accomplishments, as well as those of all the Buffalo Soldiers, preserved for future generations.

"It was very hard on them," she said of their struggle for equality with their white counterparts. "They endured it. They were proud."

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MILITARY



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

A Hawkeye view of Manila

With a Northrup Grumman E-2 Hawkeye parked in the foreground, U.S. Navy personnel cool themselves on the flight deck of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier off Manila, Philippines, on Saturday during a five-day port call along with the guided missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy.

DOD: 1st Gitmo transfer under Trump due 'soon'

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Pentagon missed a deadline Tuesday to send a prisoner from the Guantanamo Bay detention center home to Saudi Arabia in what would have been the first transfer under President Donald Trump.

Ahmed al-Darbi pleaded guilty before a military commission at the U.S. base in Cuba in 2014 to charges stemming from an attack on a French oil tanker. He was supposed to be transferred to a rehabilitation program for former jihadists in Saudi Arabia in exchange for his testimony in two other Guantanamo war crimes cases.

But the U.S. is still awaiting unspecified "assurances" from the Saudi Arabian government before the Defense Department can move forward with the transfer, said Navy Cmdr Sarah Higgins, a Pentagon spokeswoman for issues related to Guantanamo.

Higgins said the DOD "hopes the transfer will take place soon," but said she could not offer further details.

Al-Darbi's lawyer, Ramzi Kassem, said he realizes that dealings between two nations can take longer than expected and that he believes "all sides are working together toward the same goal" to complete the transfer.

"It would make little sense for the U.S. government to renege on a deal with Mr. al-Darbi after describing his testimony as 'unprecedented' in counterterrorism prosecutions to date," said Kassem, a professor at the City University of New York School of Law who has been al-Darbi's lead defense counsel since 2008. "That would virtually guarantee that no one else will cooperate with the U.S. government and its military commissions."

The prisoner pleaded guilty to charges that included conspiracy,

attacking civilian objects, terrorism and aiding the enemy for helping to arrange the 2002 al-Qaida attack on the MV Limburg. The attack, which killed a Bulgarian crewmember, happened after al-Darbi was already in U.S. custody and was already cooperating with authorities, according to court documents.

Al-Darbi could have received a life sentence but instead got 13 years under an agreement that he be sent after four years to the rehabilitation program in Saudi Arabia. As part of the deal, he agreed to testify against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who is charged with orchestrating the deadly 2000 bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen, and Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, who is charged with overseeing attacks against coalition forces in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2006.

Al-Darbi provided testimony in both cases, though neither has gone to trial yet.

Agency: Failed Hawaii missile test cost \$130M

By WILLIAM COLE
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Rocket science, it should come as no surprise, is not easy or cheap.

That was most recently demonstrated Jan. 31 off the Hawaiian island of Kauai when a Raytheon SM-3 Block IIA missile failed to intercept an air-dropped intermediate-range target missile. The missile soon will be deployed to Navy ships, Japan, Romania and Poland to defend against North Korean and Iranian threats.

According to the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, which conducted the test, the cost of the still-in-development missile was \$36 million. The cost of the intermediate-range target missile was about \$40 million. The total cost of the test was about \$130 million.

The last figure includes Pacific Missile Range Facility use, a variety of radars and other sensors, and about 350 personnel who supported the test, according to the agency.

"This was a developmental and operational test of a new capability and utilized a missile variant not yet in production," Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves, head of the Missile Defense Agency, said after the test.

Some firms included using both ground- and space-based sensors to remotely cue the launch of the interceptor missile, Greaves said. It was also the first time an SM-3 IIA missile was launched from land using the Aegis Ashore test complex on Kauai.

Everything up to and including the launch worked. A failure review board will determine why an intercept didn't occur.

The costs, meanwhile, point to the fact that the United States spends a lot of money on a missile defense system that's still very much a work in progress.

The Missile Defense Agency is requesting \$9.9 billion in fiscal 2019. According to a May 2017 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, the agency since 2002 has received approximately \$123 billion to develop and deliver ballistic missile defense systems.

U.S. officials repeatedly express confidence in the 44 ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California that protect Hawaii and the mainland from North Korean threats. The mainly ship-based Aegis ballistic missile defense system, which uses multiple types of missiles, has a record of 36 successful intercepts in 45 tests, according to the Congressional Research Service.

A new SM-3 IIA also failed to hit its target in June off Kauai. A sailor on the Pearl Harbor destroyer USS John Paul Jones, who was on duty at the time, pushed a button that caused the missile to self-destruct in flight in a \$130 million mistake.

The over-the-horizon Raytheon/Kongsberg Naval Strike Missile, a long-range, precision strike weapon that can destroy enemy ships at distances up to 115 miles, flies at sea-skimming altitude, uses an advanced seeker for targeting and costs about \$1.5 million, according to published reports.

David Wright, co-director and senior scientist with the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the SM-3 IIA is significantly larger and faster than the Naval Strike Missile. The SM-3 IIA has a range of 1,350 miles or more.

In particular it has a speed 15 times that of the Naval Strike Missile (4.5 kilometers a second versus 0.3 kilometers a second), which means that it is very different technology and much more expensive," Wright said in an email.

Raytheon ground system for satellites skewed by nonprofit research firm

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The Pentagon and Congress can have little confidence in any estimate Raytheon Co. or the Air Force may offer on the cost and timeline for a troubled ground control system to operate new Global Positioning System satellites, according to a report from a nonprofit research firm.

"The program office and the prime contractor demonstrated an inability to accurately project cost and schedule," MITRE Corp. said in the report to the Defense Department obtained by Bloomberg News.

The report, labeled "For Official Use Only," bolstered the judgment expressed two years ago by the Air Force's head of space systems acquisition, who called Raytheon's "Operational Control Network," or OCX, the Pentagon's "No. 1 troubled program."

MITRE pointedly raised the possibility of scrapping the entire Raytheon project. It said "there are no show-stoppers in continuing to modernize" Lockheed Martin's existing ground network instead.

The ground system, which was supposed to be in operation by October 2016 under Raytheon's contract, now isn't projected to be

ready until at least April 2022, the Air Force said in July. Its projected cost has increased from \$866 million in the initial contract in 2010 to \$3.4 billion in November 2012 and \$6.1 billion in May, according to MITRE's report.

Raytheon's network of 20 ground stations and antennas worldwide is intended to take full advantage of new GPS III satellites being built by Lockheed that promise greater worldwide coverage, accuracy and cybersecurity. The Global Positioning System is widely used for everything from helping the military pinpoint airstrikes against Islamic State to allowing civilians

to map street-by-street driving directions on their smartphones. The new satellites are also years behind schedule.

Raytheon didn't pull punches in responding to the criticism from MITRE, which runs federally funded research and development centers. The report "contains multiple factual errors, and because of this, the MITRE team reached inaccurate conclusions regarding the program's current progress, future schedule, and cost," Raytheon spokesman Mike Doble said in an email.

"We confidently stand by our ability to deliver the full GPS OCX system within the current

budget and by the June 2021 contractual deadline."

MITRE spokesman Jeremy Singer said in an email that "we stand by our methodology, findings, and independent cost estimate for the OCX report."

The Pentagon leadership has directed a 90-day review of the findings and recommendations in the MITRE report, which was submitted in December, according to Maj. William Russell, an Air Force spokesman. Russell said the Air Force assesses that Raytheon has made progress, including by bringing in additional outside resources to stay on the current schedule, he said.

WAR/MIDEAST

Probe of Afghan forces' conduct is sought

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Witnesses claim that Afghan security forces summarily executed civilians during a recent joint operation with U.S. forces — an allegation that a human rights organization says should be investigated by the Afghan government and the U.S. military.

Human Rights Watch said Wednesday that the incident took place late on Jan. 31 and into the early hours of Feb. 1, when civilians fled U.S. airstrikes in southern Kandahar province. Locals told the organization at least 20 civilians were executed.

An Afghan special operations unit launched an offensive in Kandahar's Maiwand and Panjwai districts against the Taliban on Jan. 31 which was backed by U.S. airstrikes.

At least 50 Taliban fighters — including some key commanders — were killed, Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security said at the time.

Navy Capt. Tom Gresback, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said that "all of those killed in the operation were identified as Taliban fighters."

Gresback added that U.S. Forces-Afghanistan "takes seriously all allegations of human rights violations reportedly committed

'Summarily executing people in custody, whether they are fighters or civilians, is a war crime.'

Patricia Gossman
researcher, Human Rights Watch

by Afghan forces."

Witnesses who spoke to Human Rights Watch said security forces dragged some men from their homes and shot them.

"Summarily executing people

in custody, whether they are fighters or civilians, is a war crime," said Patricia Gossman, a researcher at Human Rights Watch. "A prompt and impartial investigation" is needed to determine exactly what happened during the assault, Gossman said.

Ahmad Zia Durrani, a spokesman for Kandahar's police chief, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday that two members of a family that had "helped the enemy" were wounded when their house was raided and that these were the only civilian casualties caused by the operation.

"I'm 100 percent sure that these were the enemies of the Afghan people," Durrani said.

Kabul has taken steps recently to reduce civilian casualties, which can weaken support of the government and risk undermining the international mission in the country. Those include the adoption of a national policy to prevent civilian casualties in October, and the ratification in August of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Civilian casualties caused by pro-government forces in Afghanistan dropped by 23 percent last year compared with 2016, according to a United Nations report released last week.

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New strikes kill 10 in rebel-held Damascus suburbs

By PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BEIRUT — New airstrikes and shelling of the besieged, rebel-held suburbs of the Syrian capital killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens more on Wednesday, a rescue organization and a monitoring group said, adding to a staggering casualty toll that has overwhelmed paramedics and doctors in the past few days.

Syrian government forces and Russian aircraft have shown no signs of letting up their indiscriminate aerial and artillery assault on eastern Ghouta since they stepped up strikes late Sunday as part of a seemingly new, determined push to recapture the territory that has been controlled by rebels since 2012.

At least 260 people have been killed since Sunday night, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights group that closely monitors the fighting through activists on the ground, including 10 in a wave of strikes on the town of Kafr Batna on Wednesday.

The Syrian Civil Defense



GHOUTA MEDIA CENTER/AP

Two Syrian children who were wounded during airstrikes and shelling by Syrian government forces sit at a makeshift hospital in Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus, Syria.

search-and-rescue group, also known as the White Helmets, said government forces targeted the town with airstrikes, artillery fire and barrel bombs — crude, explosives-filled oil drums dropped from helicopters at high altitudes. It reported that several

other people were wounded.

The locally run Ghouta Media Center reported strikes on Kafr Batna and other towns in the region outside Damascus.

A Syrian doctor working as an anesthesiologist at a hospital in the town of Zamalka, part of the

eastern Ghouta region, said the number of casualties from the government's air blitz is overwhelming the hospitals there. Waleed Awata, 44, said his small hospital, with just 17 beds, received 82 patients Tuesday night.

"We had to give them IVs and treat them on the floor," he said. He said the hospital received the bodies of four killed in Wednesday's shelling — two women and two children.

The physician added that the hospital was struck by barrel bombs Tuesday as well as sporadic artillery fire.

The Russian military is supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces and was instrumental in the all-out assault on the eastern half of Syria's largest city, Aleppo, in late 2016 to eject rebels from their enclave there.

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, rejected allegations the Russian military is responsible for civilian casualties in eastern Ghouta. He was responding to U.S. and others' allegations that Russia shares responsibility for the casualties in eastern Ghouta along with Syria.

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NATION

Medals awarded to JROTC cadets killed in shooting

1 student gets rare posthumous admission to US Military Academy

By LORI ROZSA

Special To The Washington Post.

PARKLAND, Fla. — The U.S. military is awarding medals to three Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets who were killed in last week's high school shooting here, and one of them has received a rare posthumous admission to the U.S. Military Academy.

The students — Peter Wang, 15, and Alaina Petty and Martin Duque, both 14 — were members of the JROTC program at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where the shooting occurred Feb. 14. Police said Nikolas Cruz, 19 — a former JROTC member at the school — opened fire inside the school with an assault-style rifle, killing 17 people. Authorities have hailed the JROTC members for their bravery that day in helping other students reach safety.

The U.S. Army Cadet Command said the JROTC Medal of Heroism is given to a cadet who does something "so exceptional and outstanding that it clearly sets the individual apart from fellow students" and "involved

the acceptance of danger and extraordinary responsibilities, exemplifying praiseworthy fortitude and courage."

Cadet Command spokesman Michael Maddox said JROTC students who survived the shooting at Douglas High might also receive medals for the help they gave to others as the attack was underway. Zackary Walls and Colton Haab helped to build a makeshift shield out of sheets of Kevlar for students who fled to the JROTC classroom, and Jude Lenamon helped panicked students to safely and quickly leave campus after he recognized the sound of gunshots and realized that the incident was not a fire drill.

"Awards for other possible cadets are going through a review process," Maddox said.

The families of the three slain JROTC cadets either have been or are to be presented with medals at the funerals for their son. Wang was buried in his uniform Tuesday, with his medal pinned to it. His family received a keepsake medal, Maddox said.

Petty's family received the medal at her service Monday, and

Duque's family is to receive the medal at his funeral Saturday.

Wang is credited with saving lives by holding open a door for others to escape and was in his cadet uniform when he was killed. His family and friends said he loved being part of JROTC and had dreams of attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

"Peter Wang, an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, had a lifetime goal to attend USMA and was posthumously offered admission for his heroic actions on Feb. 14," a statement from the academy said. "It was an appropriate way



GERALD HERBERT/AP

The casket of Alaina Petty, a victim of Wednesday's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, is carried from her funeral in Coral Springs, Fla., on Monday.

for USMA to honor this brave young man."

The statement said the honor is given "in very rare instances for those candidates or potential candidates whose actions exemplified the tenets of Duty, Honor and Country."

A spokeswoman said the honor is so rare that the academy is unaware of the last time a posthu-

mous admission was granted.

Petty was a member of the unit's color guard and was anticipating her first competition in the coming weeks. Her brother, Patrick Petty, who also is in JROTC, survived the shooting. He was in a front office with other members of the unit, as well as adults and special-needs students whom he helped usher into the room.

Student shot 5 times protecting classmates

Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — A 15-year-old student who was shot five times during last week's massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is credited with saving the lives of at least 20 other students.

A fundraising site said Anthony Borges was shot in both legs and his back while attempting to close and lock a classroom door last Wednesday. Seventeen people were killed.

Borges' friend Carlos Rodriguez told ABC's "Good Morning America" that the two rushed to hide in a nearby classroom when they first heard gunshots. He said no one knew what to do, but that Borges "took the initiative to just save his other classmates."

Borges' GoFundMe had raised

more than \$446,000 as of Tuesday afternoon from nearly 14,000 donations. The legitimacy of the fundraising page was confirmed by the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

The hospital says it can't release any details on his condition. It says only that he and three other injured victims from the shooting recovering at Broward Health hospitals are all in "fair condition." The Sheriff's Office said that he "has a long road ahead with more surgeries needed."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders thanked Borges on Tuesday for the "courage" shown during the shooting attack.

"We are all rooting for you," she said.

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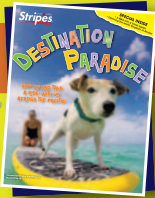
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NATION



MARK WALLNEISER/AP

Therese Gachmauer, center, a Chiles High School senior, and Kwane Gatlin, right, a senior at Lincoln High School, both in Tallahassee, Fla., join fellow students protesting gun violence on the steps of the old Florida Capitol in Tallahassee on Wednesday.

Survivors: Florida students push for change

FROM FRONT PAGE

and come to our school and try to kill us?" one 16-year-old student asked the Senate president.

The teens split into several groups to talk with lawmakers and other state leaders about gun control, the legislative process and mental health issues. Some tearfully asked why civilians should be allowed to have weapons such as the one fired in the attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School one week ago.

When Florida Senate President Joe Negron heard the question, he did not answer directly. "That's an issue that we're reviewing," he said. When another lawmaker said he supported raising the age to buy assault-style weapons to 21 from 18, the students broke into applause.

The Florida Senate opened its session by showing pictures of all 17 victims in the attack.

"There are some really harrowing tales here," said Democratic Sen. Lauren Book, of Broward County, who helped organize busloads of students who arrived at the Capitol late Tuesday. She stayed overnight with the students in Tallahassee's Civic Center and said they stayed up until 5 a.m., researching, writing and preparing to talk with politicians.

"It has been a very, very difficult, tough night," Book said. "It's in those quiet moments that the reality of this stuff without all the noise sets in. In any given moment, there's tears. It's raw and it's there."

About 100 students from the high school made the 400-mile trip on three buses. They told the 500 students and parents waiting for them that they were fighting to protect all students.

"We're what's making the change," said Alfonso Calderon, a 16-year-old junior. "We're going to talk to these politicians. ... We're going to keep pushing until something is done because people are dying and this can't happen anymore."

Despite their determination, the students and their supporters are not likely to get what they really want: a ban on AR-15s and similar semi-automatic rifles. Republican lawmakers are talking more seriously about some restrictions but not a total ban.

Instead, they are discussing treating assault-style rifles more like handguns. That could mean raising the minimum age to purchase the weapon to 21, creating a waiting period and making it more difficult for people who exhibit signs of mental illness to buy weapons even without a diagnosis.

Democrats attempted to get a bill to ban assault rifles and large-capacity magazines heard on the House floor Tuesday. Republicans, who dominate the chamber, dismissed it.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott organized three committees to look at school safety, mental health and gun safety issues. The committees met Tuesday and vowed to make changes. While Scott told reporters several times that "everything is on the table," he did not answer whether his proposal would include bans on any type of weapons.

Authorities said Cruz, 19, had a string of run-ins with school authorities that ended with his expulsion. Police were repeatedly called to his house throughout his childhood. His lawyers said there were many warning signs that he was mentally unstable and potentially violent. Yet he legally purchased a semi-automatic rifle.

Diego Pfeiffer, a senior at the high school, was realistic about achieving changes in the law before the Legislature goes home March 9, but he said anything is a good first step.

"The best-case scenario is we move a step forward and that's all we're asking here. We're asking to help save student lives," he said. "Whether it's funding or mental health or gun safety or any of that sort of stuff — I am pro any of that."

‘The best-case scenario is we move a step forward and that’s all we’re asking here. We’re asking to help save student lives.’

Diego Pfeiffer
Parkland High School senior

Trump says more must be done to protect children

By CATHERINE LUCEY
AND MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a grieving Florida community demanded action on guns, President Donald Trump on Tuesday directed the Justice Department to move to ban devices such as the rapid-fire bump stocks used in last year's Las Vegas massacre. It was a small sign of movement on the violence issue that has long tied Washington in knots.

"We must do more to protect our children," Trump said, adding that his administration was working hard to respond to the shooting in Parkland that left 17 dead.

After past mass killings yielded little action on tighter gun controls, the White House is trying to demonstrate that it is taking the issue seriously. The president, a strong and vocal supporter of gun rights, has not endorsed more robust changes sought by gun control activists. But the White House cast the president in recent days as having been swayed by the school shooting in Florida and willing to listen to proposals.

In a tweet Tuesday night, Trump indicated he wants to strengthen the background check system, but offered no specifics.

Trump said, "Whether we are Republican or Democrat, we must now focus on strengthening Background Checks!"

Asked at a press briefing Tuesday if Trump was open to reinstating a ban on assault-type weapons, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said White House officials "haven't closed the door on any front." She also said that the idea of raising the age limit to buy an AR-15 was "on the table for us to discuss."

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat and leading advocate for tighter gun controls, said Trump's directive suggested the president was aware of fresh energy on the issue and called it a sign that "for the first time" politicians are "scared of the political consequences of inaction on guns."

A bipartisan legislative effort to ban bump stocks last year fizzled out. The Bureau of Alcohol, To-

bacco, Firearms and Explosives announced in December that it was reviewing whether weapons that use bump stocks should be considered illegal machine guns under federal law.

Under the Obama administration, the ATF had concluded that bump stocks did not violate federal law. But the acting director of the ATF told lawmakers in December that the ATF and Justice Department would not have initiated the review if a ban "wasn't a possibility at the end."

The Justice Department had not made any announcement regarding its review when Trump on Tuesday signed a memorandum directing the agency to complete the review as soon as possible and propose a rule "banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machine guns."

Reacting to Trump's memo, the department said in a statement that it "understands this is a priority for the president and has acted quickly to move through the rulemaking process. We look forward to the results of that process as soon as it is duly completed."

A day earlier, Trump sent another signal he had been swayed by the Parkland shooting and the dramatic calls for action in its aftermath. A White House statement said Trump was looking at a bill that would strengthen federal gun background checks. On Wednesday, he was to host parents, teachers and students at the White House for a "listening session" that would include people affected by mass shootings in Parkland, Columbine, Colo., and Newtown, Conn.

The president was moved by a visit Friday with Florida victims in the hospital and is trying to work on solutions, said a person familiar with his thinking who sought anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

Among the steps sought by gun control advocates: closing loopholes that permit loose private sales on the internet and at gun shows, banning assault-type weapons and passing laws to enable family members, guardians or police to ask judges to strip gun rights temporarily from people who show warning signs of violence.

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NATION

Preventive peanut allergy treatment succeeds in study

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

The first treatment to help prevent serious allergic reactions to peanuts may be on the way. A company said Tuesday that its daily capsules of peanut flour helped sensitize children to nuts in a major study.

Millions of children have peanut allergies, and some may have life-threatening reactions if accidentally exposed to them. Doctors have been testing daily doses of peanut flour, contained in a capsule and sprinkled over food, as a way to prevent that.

California-based Amimmune Therapeutics said 67 percent of kids who had its treatment were able to tolerate the equivalent of roughly two peanuts at the end of the study, compared with only 4 percent of others given a dummy powder.

The study involved nearly 500 kids ages 4 to 17 with severe peanut allergies. They were given either capsules of peanut flour or a dummy powder in gradually increasing amounts for six months, then continued on that final level for another six months. Neither the participants nor their doctors knew who was getting what until the study ended.

About 20 percent of kids getting the peanut powder dropped out of the study, 12 percent due to reactions or other problems.

The results have not yet been reviewed by independent experts, but will be presented at a medical meeting next month.

The company plans to file for U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for the treatment by the end of this year and for approval in Europe early next year.

Report says Hawaii wasn't ready to handle alert on missile threat

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii's nuclear missile scare showed that the state began testing alerts before fully developing a plan to address the ballistic missile threat and that a public outreach campaign months earlier wasn't effective, said a report released Tuesday.

The state Department of Defense, the agency that oversees Hawaii's emergency management, released the internal review after an alert was sent to cellphones, televisions and radio stations across the state last month.

The notification, which read "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL," triggered widespread panic as more than a million residents and visitors feared they were about to face a ballistic missile strike.

Gov. David Ige assigned Brig. Gen. Kenneth Hara, the second in command at the Department of Defense, to conduct a comprehensive review of the agency's operations.

"The response and recovery sections of the plan were minimally developed," Hara's report said. "The plan lacked clear details for sheltering, county coordination and protocols for decision to send out all clear or false missile alert messages, e.g., interception, missile impact without effect to Hawaii, etc."

The public didn't get adequate directions about what to do, the report said.

An agency employee mistakenly sent the alert to cellphones and broadcast stations across the state during a shift-change drill at the agency on Jan. 13.

Officials later disclosed the employee didn't think he and his colleagues were participating in

a drill and instead believed a real attack was imminent. The state has since fired him.

It took the agency 38 minutes to send a follow-up message cellphones notifying people the alert was a mistake, in part because the agency had no prepared message it could send out in the event of a false alarm. Agency officials notified broadcast stations earlier.

Within hours of the alert, the agency changed protocols to start requiring that two people send an alert. It also made it easier to cancel alerts by preparing a pre-programmed false alarm message.

The report's recommendations include suspending all activities related to the Ballistic Missile Preparedness Campaign, with the exception of the monthly ballistic missile alert tone siren testing, until a plan is published and the majority of Hawaii's public know "what to do, where to go, and when to do it."

Okla. man gets life for hate crime killing

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — An Oklahoma man convicted of murder and a hate crime in the fatal shooting of his Lebanese neighbor was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Stanley Vernon Majors, 63, was convicted earlier this month of gunning down Khalid Jabara, 37, outside his Tulsa home in August 2016.

The murder charge carried a life sentence, and the jury recommended that Majors never get the chance to go free — a recommendation the judge followed Tuesday.

The jury foreman, Randall Hardee, told The Tulsa World that the jury agreed that Majors was having mental problems, but that he also understood the con-



Majors

sequences of his actions. Jurors also found it difficult to ignore that Majors had antagonized the Jabara family for years, he said.

According to prosecutors, Majors killed Jabara after bombarding him with racial insults in a feud with Jabara's family that lasted several years. It escalated to the point where the victim's mother, Haifa Jabara, obtained a protective order in 2013 that required Majors to stay 300 yards away and prohibited him from possessing any firearms until 2018.

But prosecutors said Majors was undeterred, and that he struck Haifa Jabara with his car in 2015 and drove off. She suffered a broken shoulder, among other injuries. Officers who stopped him later reported that he was intoxicated.

While Majors was awaiting trial in that case on assault and battery charges, a judge freed him from jail on \$60,000 bond, overruling strong objections by prosecutors.

Authorities said Majors shot Khalid Jabara on his own front porch while out on bond.

The Jabara family did not attend Tuesday's hearing and instead submitted a letter to District Judge Sharon Holmes.

"We do not believe this defendant is worthy of any more attention," the letter said.



HENRY RAY ABRAMS/AP

The Rev. Billy Graham speaks on stage in 2005. The evangelist who became a counselor to presidents, died Wednesday at 99.

Renowned evangelist Billy Graham dies at 99

By RACHEL ZOLL
Associated Press

MONTREAT, N.C. — The Rev. Billy Graham, who transformed American religious life through his preaching and activism, becoming a counselor to presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died Wednesday. He was 99.

Graham, who long suffered from cancer, pneumonia and other ailments, died at his home in North Carolina, spokesman Mark DeMoss told The Associated Press.

More than anyone else, Graham had evangelized into a force that rivaled liberal Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in the United States. His leadership spurred powerful global links among conservative Christians and threw a lifeline to believers in the communist-controlled Eastern bloc. Dubbed "America's pastor," he was a confidant to U.S. presidents from Gen. Dwight Eisenhower to George W. Bush.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan gave Graham the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. When the Billy Graham Museum and Library was dedicated in 2007 in Charlotte, former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton attended.

"When he prays with you in the Oval Office or upstairs in the White House, you feel he's praying for you, not the president," Clinton said at the ceremony.

Beyond Graham's public appearances, he reached untold millions through his pioneering use of prime-time telecasts, network radio, daily newspaper columns, evangelistic feature films and globe-girdling satellite TV hookups. Graham's message was not complex or unique, yet he preached with a conviction that was so popular it was extended to billions worldwide.

By his final crusade in 2005 in New York City, he had preached in person to more than 210 million people worldwide. No evangelist is expected to have his level of influence again.

"William Franklin Graham Jr. can safely be regarded as the best

who ever lived at what he did," said William Martin, author of the Graham biography "A Prophet With Honor."

Born Nov. 7, 1918, on his family's dairy farm near Charlotte, N.C., Graham came from a fundamentalist background that expected true Bible believers to stay clear of Christians with even the most minor differences over Scripture. But as his crusades drew support from a widening array of Christian churches, he came to reject that view.

He joined in a then-emerging movement called New Evangelicalism that abandoned the narrowness of fundamentalism to engage broader society. Fundamentalists at the time excoriated the preacher for his new direction, and broke with him when he agreed to work with more liberal Christians in the 1950s.

Graham stood fast. He would not reject people who were sincere and shared at least some of his beliefs, Martin said. He wanted the widest hearing possible for his salvation message.

Graham's 12-week London campaign in 1954 defied expectations, drawing more than 2 million people and the respect of the British, many of whom had derided him as little more than a slick salesman before his arrival. Three years later, he held a crusade in New York's Madison Square Garden that was so popular it was extended from six to 16 weeks, capped off with a rally in Times Square that packed Broadway with more than 100,000 people.

In 1995, his son, Franklin, was named the ministry's leader. Along with the many honors he received from the evangelical community and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Graham received the \$1 million Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1982 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Graham will be buried by his wife, Ruth, at the Billy Graham Museum and Library.

"I have been asked, 'What is the secret?'" Graham had said of his preaching. "It is showmanship, organization or what? The secret of my work is God. I would be nothing without him."

NATION

Attorney admits he lied to Mueller's agents

By CHAD DAY
AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A 33-year-old attorney fired last year by a prominent international law firm became the fourth person to plead guilty in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, admitting Tuesday that he lied to federal investigators about his contacts with a Trump campaign official.

Alex van der Zwaan, who worked at the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, admitted in Washington's federal court Tuesday to making false statements about his interactions with former Trump campaign aide Rick Gates. His plea deal may allow him to avoid prison.

Van der Zwaan's plea comes on the heels of an extraordinary indictment from Mueller last week that charged 13 Russian individuals and three Russian companies in a hidden but robust social media effort that provoked on-the-ground rallies and sought to meddle in the 2016 U.S. presi-

dential election by denigrating Democrat Hillary Clinton and boosting the successful campaign of Republican Donald Trump.

The charge against the attorney, who is also the son-in-law of a Russian billionaire, does not involve election meddling or relate to the Trump campaign's operations. Instead, it stems from the special counsel's investigation into Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, and Gates, who is a longtime business associate of Manafort.

Gates and Manafort were indicted last year on charges that they conspired to launder millions of dollars and directed a covert Washington lobbying campaign on behalf of pro-Russian Ukrainian interests. Both men have pleaded not guilty.

On Tuesday, van der Zwaan, a Dutch citizen who authorities say lives in London, admitted to lying to federal investigators while they questioned him about the production of a report that Manafort and Gates are accused of secretly funding by funneling \$4 million through an offshore account.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Attorney Alex van der Zwaan admitted Tuesday in court that he lied to federal investigators working for special counsel Robert Mueller.

The report, authored by Skadden Arps, focused on the trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a political foe of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, whose political party was a client of Gates and Manafort.

The false statements van der

Zwaan admitted to making involved the timing of his last communication with Gates and a person, described as "Person A," who was a longtime business associate of Manafort and Gates in Ukraine.

According to court papers attached to his plea agreement, the

conversations, including some using encrypted applications, occurred in September 2016 and involved possible criminal charges being brought in Ukraine against a former Ukrainian official, Manafort and "Law Firm A," an apparent reference to Skadden Arps.

The Nov. 3, 2017, questioning of van der Zwaan occurred just days after Manafort's indictment and, according to court papers, while prosecutors still were investigating potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

On Tuesday, Skadden Arps released a statement saying it had fired van der Zwaan last year and it "has been cooperating with authorities in connection with this matter."

"The conduct to which Alex has pled guilty is contrary to our values, policies and expectations," the firm added.

Last year, van der Zwaan married the daughter of Ukrainian-Russian billionaire German Khan, according to the Russian editions of Forbes and Tatler magazines.



PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Democrat Linda Belcher, left, defeated Republican Rebecca Johnson, right, in Tuesday's special election to fill a vacant seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

Wife of lawmaker who killed himself loses Ky. election bid

Associated Press

SHEPHERDSVILLE, Ky. — The wife of a former Kentucky Republican lawmaker who killed himself last year after facing sexual assault allegations has lost her attempt to fill the remainder of her husband's term in a special election that ended up being a referendum of sorts on the #MeToo movement.

Rebecca Johnson denied the allegations against Dan Johnson, claiming he was a victim of "an assault from the left." But the allegations were backed up by an on-the-record interview from the victim, plus police documents that were published by the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting after months of reporting.

Votes on Tuesday in this rural Kentucky House district just south of Louisville voted overwhelmingly to replace Johnson with Linda Belcher, a retired teacher and former Democratic state lawmaker who lost to Dan

Johnson by fewer than 200 votes in 2016.

The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee said it's at least the 37th contested seat Democrats have taken from Republicans since President Donald Trump was inaugurated. Trump won Kentucky's 49th House district in 2016 with more than 72 percent of the vote. On Tuesday, Belcher won with more than 68 percent of the vote.

Despite the lopsided results, Johnson refused to concede, citing "widespread voter fraud."

"I've heard from and about people all day long saying they went to vote for me at the correct polling place and were refused the opportunity to vote," Johnson said in a news release.

Belcher said she won the election "fair and square." It is the third time voters have elected Belcher, who was first elected in 2008 when she replaced her husband on the ballot after he was killed in a car wreck.

White House: New policy won't affect Kushner

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a week of reckoning for White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and dozens of other officials who have been working without permanent security clearances for the better part of a year.

Those who have been operating with interim access to top secret information since before June are set to see that access halted Friday under a new policy enacted last week by chief of staff John Kelly. Some officials are expected to leave their posts as a result, while others will continue working with reduced — or no — access to classified information.

The White House maintains that Kushner's work will be unaffected by the change but won't

explain why.

"Nothing that has taken place will affect the valuable work that Jared is doing," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday. "He continues and will continue to be a valued member of the team. He'll continue to do the important work that he's been focused on for the last year."

Kelly, in a statement, said the White House looks forward to Kushner maintaining his role working on Middle East peace and U.S.-Mexico relations.

"As I told Jared days ago, I have full confidence in his ability to continue performing his duties in his foreign policy portfolio," Kelly said.

It was not immediately clear how Kushner, the president's son-

in-law, would be protected from Kelly's crackdown on interim White House clearances. Sanders did not rule out President Donald Trump using his executive authority to grant Kushner a permanent security clearance.

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NATION

WH: 'No reason to believe' Trump has lost faith in Shulkin

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tried to dispel speculation Tuesday that Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin — often complimented by President Donald Trump over the past year — is no longer in Trump's good graces.

In a brief response to a question about whether Shulkin and Scott Pruitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, still had Trump's confidence following recent findings of superfluous travel on taxpayers' dime, Sanders responded, "I have no reason to believe otherwise."

"As I've said before, if someone no longer has the confidence of the president, you guys will know," Sanders told reporters during the daily press briefing.

She refused to comment further about findings released by VA Inspector General Michael Missal last week that detailed ethical violations by Shulkin and his chief of staff on a 10-day, taxpayer-funded trip to Europe last summer. Sanders noted the length of the report — 97 pages including a 16-page rebuttal from Shulkin's lawyers — and said the White House needed more time to review it.

"There's a secondary review that takes place," she said. "Until that's completed, I can't comment any further."

Following the release of the IG report last week, VA Chief of Staff Viveca Wright Simpson announced her retirement, and a former member of Trump's transition team, Peter O'Rourke, was

named her replacement.

Investigators found that Wright Simpson misled an ethics official into approving travel expenses for the VA secretary's wife, according to the IG report. They also determined Shulkin improperly accepted tickets to Wimbledon for himself and his wife.

Shulkin, his wife and a small staff traveled to Copenhagen and London in July for a veterans' summit, but much of the trip — which came with a price tag of around \$122,000 — was spent sightseeing, investigators found.

Following the report's release, one Republican congressman, Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., said Shulkin isn't fit to clean up the agency, arguing that as a holdover from former President Barack Obama's administration, he's part of the problem.

"I just don't see how this particular holdover as a secretary can change the culture of the VA when he's really such a part of it," Coffman told reporters last week. "The situation in the IG report just demonstrates that."

On Friday, the VA issued a statement similar to what Sanders reiterated Tuesday — that the VA would review the IG report in more detail before determining any potential disciplinary actions.

In response to a question about whether he still had Trump's approval, Shulkin said Friday only that he was in "constant contact" with the White House.

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JESSICA POUNDS, CLEBURNE (TEXAS) TIMES-REVIEW/AP

A dog stands near the debris of a mobile home destroyed when a tornado struck outside Joshua, about 20 miles south of Fort Worth, Texas, on Tuesday.

Weather causes havoc in many states

Associated Press

MATTAWAN, Mich. — Sandbags were holding back floodwaters in parts of Michigan as a storm system moved across several Midwest and Great Plains states on Wednesday, bringing heavy rain, snow and ice to the region.

The weather has already been blamed for hundreds of car crashes and several fatalities, including the deaths of four people in a crash along a slippery interstate in Nebraska.

Melting snow and heavy rain prompted the National Weather Service to issue flood warnings for parts of northern Illinois and northern Indiana, as well as southern Wisconsin and much of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Flood warnings also were issued for parts of Missouri and Texas.

The fear of rising water along the Illinois River forced the evacuation late Tuesday of the LaSalle County Nursing Home in Ottawa, Ill. In Indiana, homes and streets were flooded in the South Bend area, and forecasters predicted the local St. Joseph River wouldn't crest until Thursday.

Flood watches were issued for several states, while winter weather advisories were in effect Wednesday for an area stretch-



BRONTE WITTFENN, THE FLINT (MICH.) JOURNAL-MLIVE.COM/AP

Flint resident Brayden Bend, 5, sits on top of his mother's friend's vehicle on Tuesday in Flint, Mich. High floodwaters caused several motorists to become stuck.

ing from southwestern Illinois to Texas, including parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas.

A 52-year-old woman from Bourbonnais, Ill., was found dead Tuesday in a submerged car in Peotone, south of Chicago. The woman apparently lost control of her car and ended up in a rain-filled ditch, Peotone Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Bruce Boyle said.

In eastern Nebraska, speed and slippery pavement caused a crash between a pickup truck and

a semitrailer Tuesday that killed four people on Interstate 80, police said.

In Minnesota, state police said winter weather contributed to 400 crashes and 250 spinouts, including two fatal accidents.

The storm system stretched to Texas, where weather service officials said three tornadoes hit. One struck early Tuesday in a rural area near Joshua, destroying at least two mobile homes and severely damaging several others. A mother and her disabled daughter were injured when one twister demolished their mobile home.

Judge approves shutdown of large California homeless camp

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Southern California authorities took steps Tuesday toward shutting down a large homeless encampment and relocating hundreds of tent-dwellers to motel rooms under a court-supervised deal with lawyers who sued to protect their rights.

Scores of people hauling suitcases and pet dogs lined up in the encampment Saturday to speak with county workers tasked with placing the homeless in motel rooms for up to 30 days as sheriff's deputies begin clearing the trash-strewn site.

County officials said the challenge was ensuring they were reaching some 600 homeless tent-dwellers who had been living on the 2-mile-long stretch of the riverbed bike trail since last summer, and not

others heading to the encampment solely to seek a motel voucher.

"It makes it very difficult for us to help everybody," said Frank Kim, the county's chief executive officer, adding that he saw people arrive with sleeping bags at the encampment over the weekend. "We're going to help everybody but not everybody is going to get a motel voucher."

County workers set up the triage stations to help the homeless after U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter lifted an order blocking deputies from making arrests along the trail, saying the homeless were given ample notice it was time to move.

Carter, who is known for his unconventional approach, set up an impromptu courtroom with a table and folding chairs in a parking lot near the riverbed and said he would remain on site to address any problems. He also had a gray shed brought

to the parking lot, and asked lawyers whether it might be an option to temporarily house some homeless.

The deal came after advocates sued to protect the rights of evicted tent-dwellers, who say they were driven to the trail near the baseball stadium for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim by a crackdown on loitering in surrounding cities. The county must conduct clinical assessments of participants and provide food and storage for their belongings. Participants must speak with a case worker and abide by motel rules.

The case in the county of 3.2 million people between Los Angeles and San Diego is being watched by advocates elsewhere who are also grappling with a rise in homelessness amid soaring housing costs.

On the trail, tent-dwellers were packing up belongings that county workers helped

load into vans. Officials were working their way down the trail and said they didn't know if they'd have enough motel rooms immediately and might need to close the encampment in phases.

Larry Ford, one of the plaintiffs, looked at the long line of people and said he wasn't sure how long it would take for him to get indoors.

"I don't see they're going to get me a place," the 53-year-old said. "I'm just another person who needs a motel."

Carter said he was concerned that moving too slowly might draw new people into the riverbed as the county is trying to get long-term residents out.

Since the deal last week, county officials have moved more than 200 people out of the encampment and believe another 140 still need help, said Susan Price, the county's director of care coordination.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

Stars and Stripes was a primary source of news for the troops at the Front and behind the lines in World War II. Although it printed only in the European theater during the war, it covered news from all theaters.



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NATION

Many black colleges struggling to survive

Schools close as enrollment falls

BY ERNIE SUGGS
AND ERIC STURGIS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Two years ago, Amelia Smith received the one thing she thought she always wanted — a blue envelope from Spelman College. She had been accepted to what many consider the finest black college in America.

Her grandmother went to Spelman. So did her mother. And her aunt. And her sister, who's a senior there now. So Smith wasn't surprised when she was accepted, too.

She is now wrapping up her sophomore year. But not at Spelman. She's studying biomedical engineering at Georgia Tech.

"I am kind of the black sheep in the family," Smith said. "When I got accepted into Tech, I felt very proud of myself. My grandmother (a dean at Fort Valley State University) was very proud of me. She said if she had had the opportunity to go to Tech when she was choosing a college, she would have gone. But she never got that chance."

Amelia Smith's good fortune is Spelman College's loss. She is a talented and highly coveted black student who had her pick of any college she could get into and afford. But that hard-won freedom comes at a price for historically black colleges and universities, or HBCUs. Predominantly white schools are picking off some of black colleges' best prospects.

Fifty years ago, 90 percent of all black college students went to black colleges. Today, 90 percent of black students are at mostly white schools.

Struggling institutions

Spelman is one of the richest and most highly regarded of the 101 accredited HBCUs, as are Howard University in Washington and Morehouse College in Atlanta. They are not in danger because of choices like the one Smith made. But many HBCUs are.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution analyzed key data measures that relate to the health and stability of 101 schools — among them, enrollment, graduation rates, student retention and core revenue. The analysis found the usual stars in the HBCU firmament but also some troubled institutions that have struggled for years.

Paine College in Augusta, Ga., has lost 46 percent of its enrollment since 2010, and two-thirds of Paine's freshman class in 2015 didn't come back for sophomore year.

Meanwhile, the oldest HBCU in America, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, lost 55 percent of its enrollment during that pe-



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

A classroom at Paine College in Augusta, Ga., is half-empty. Many historically black colleges and universities are flourishing, but Paine is facing serious problems, including an enrollment decline of nearly 50 percent from 2010 to 2015.

riod. Its six-year graduation rate in 2015 was 17 percent. At South Carolina State University, enrollment declined 30 percent and core revenue fell 27 percent.

Colleges can't sustain such numbers for long — evident in the fact that at least six HBCUs have closed since 1988 and at least two (including one in Atlanta) are now colleges in name only.

Some college finance experts predict that dozens of HBCUs will disappear in the next 20 years. "I use a phrase that got me in trouble," said Johnny Taylor, former president of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which supports public HBCUs. After 7½ years in this space and seeing a decline overall, my phrase is, 'I am hopeful, but not optimistic.'"

Taylor said that as many as one-quarter of HBCUs will not survive the next two decades.

It was a brisk Wednesday morning on the Morehouse campus, and Darian Nwankwo had a problem.

He caught up with his philosophy professor, Ilyia Davis, as Davis hurried to the second of three classes he'd teach that day.

In a nutshell: Nwankwo wanted to go to his fraternity convention in Macon on that Friday. But he had also missed his allotted number of Davis' classes and he had a paper due that he must personally hand in. Davis kept pushing back on what Nwankwo needed to do. He didn't give his student permission to skip class. Nor did he deny it.

"I am going to continue to ask you questions until you figure out the answer yourself," Davis said.

Nwankwo stopped for a moment and looked at the sky. He seemed half-frustrated and half-reflective. He said he would figure it out. They gave each other a fist pound and went their separate ways.

Success or failure

"I tell my students that their success or failure is a reflection on me, and what happens in these conversations, on this campus, will not happen again when you leave here," Davis said later. "And I am trying to get them to understand — that kind of question should never have to come up again, because they should already know the answer."

Such is life at Morehouse. The Atlanta college is so highly regarded in large part because it holds the distinction of being the only all-male HBCU, whose graduates include Martin Luther King Jr. and Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor.

But there are also the unique personal relationships that professors like Davis have with their students. Those relationships recall Benjamin Mays' mentorship of a young King, whom Mays recruited to Morehouse when King was only 14.

HBCUs have educated countless black doctors, lawyers, theologians, entrepreneurs, journalists, teachers, entertainers and politicians.

But the tide that brought so many blacks into America's middle class seems to be shifting. In the five years after 2010, enrollment declined 10 percent, com-

pared with a 4 percent drop for all colleges in that time, federal data show.

Some schools are reporting enrollment gains this year. Between 2010 and 2015, however, enrollment fell more than 25 percent; only 22 black colleges had enrollment increases over that time.

In 2015, author and University of Missouri journalism professor Ron Stodghill wrote "Where Everybody Looks Like Me: At the Crossroads of America's Black Colleges and Culture." He theorized in the book that by "the year 2035 the number of HBCUs will be down to 35 and only 15 of those will be thriving."

Some scoff at such dire predictions, but it is not hard to find trouble spots. In Georgia, for example, Fort Valley State and Savannah State graduate fewer than 30 percent of their freshmen within six years. That is the case at more than half of HBCUs; the six-year graduation rate for all U.S. colleges is 59 percent.

A lot of students arrive at black colleges unprepared academically or financially. Even more than 150 years after HBCUs started, many freshmen are still first-generation college students, and more than 70 percent of students receive some kind of federal financial aid.

"A lot of times students come in on a bubble academically, and they come in on a bubble financially," Stodghill said. "Then the perfect storm hits them sophomore year and they leave with debt and can't get their transcript to go to a community college because they can't pay the bill."

Poor financial decisions

Poor financial decisions put some HBCUs on the list. One wrong move Paine College made, its new president said, was restarting a football program in 2012 that lasted one full season. Paine is in a legal battle to keep its accreditation because of such mistakes.

Most HBCUs have never had large budgets, and the problem has become worse for many. In recent years:

- States cut funding to three out of four public HBCUs since the recession. Louisiana's funding for Grambling State University, for example, was cut in half in a recent eight-year stretch.

- The Obama administration tightened credit requirements on federal student loans in 2012. Suddenly, applicants for so-called PLUS loans were turned down by the thousands, depriving dozens of HBCUs of enrollment. After protest from students, parents, colleges and lawmakers, the changes were rescinded in 2015.

HBCUs have long struggled to attract money from major foundations or donors. Bill and Camille Cosby's \$25 million gift to Spelman in 1988 is believed to be the largest donation to an HBCU.

HBCUs have also looked inward at another long-standing problem: the lack of alumni support. Barely one in 10 graduates gave money back to their colleges, U.S. News & World Report reported. At Princeton, the most recent alumni giving rate was more than 60 percent. U.S. News said. At Morehouse, about 20 percent of alumni donate to the school.

Clafin University in Orangeburg, S.C., appears to be the leader. In 2016, more than 52 percent of its graduates gave donations totaling more than \$1 million to the school. The year before, only 50 percent gave, but they gave \$1.4 million.

If HBCUs were founded because black students had no other place to go, they began to suffer when white schools started admitting black students.

"HBCUs were caught a little off-guard by majority institutions when they integrated, swooped down and took the cream of the crop and then walked away," said Clafin President Henry Tisdale. "Somehow, we had conceded that we couldn't compete."

The challenges facing HBCUs are embodied in a school in downtown Atlanta, Georgia State University, which is not an HBCU, graduated more black students in 2017 than any institution in the nation. Many of those black Georgia State students are first-generation college students with low family incomes. Paul I. Jones, president of the HBCU Valley State in Middle Georgia, said they remind him of himself.

Jones was born in South Central Los Angeles and didn't attend an HBCU. Some in Fort Valley weren't keen on hiring him, but he's invested in the task and can become emotional talking about his student.

"I cannot fail them," he said.

WORLD

North Korea passed up meeting with Pence

By JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence was all set to hold a history-making meeting with North Korean officials during the Winter Olympics in South Korea, but Kim Jong Un's government canceled at the last minute, the Trump administration said Tuesday.

A potential meeting between Pence and the North Koreans had been the most highly anticipated moment of the vice president's visit to Pyeongyang, South Korea, where he led the U.S. delegation to the opening ceremonies. Ahead of Pence's visit, Trump officials had insisted they'd requested no meeting with North Korea but left open the possibility one could occur.

There was no indication that a meeting had been planned — and then canceled on short notice — until Tuesday, more than a week after Pence returned to the U.S. The State Department said Pence had been "ready to take this opportunity" but would have used it to insist Pyongyang abandon

its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

"At the last minute, DPRK officials decided not to go forward with the meeting," said State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, using an acronym for the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We regret their failure to seize this opportunity." That seemed to contradict North Korea's own claim that it had no interest in meeting with Pence while he was in Pyeongyang.

"We have no intention to meet with the U.S. side during the stay in South Korea," a Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying by the North's official news agency Feb. 8, the day Pence arrived in South Korea. "We are not going to use such a sports festival such as the Winter Olympics as a political lever. There is no need to do so."

A Trump administration official said the U.S. had expected the meeting to occur Feb. 10, the last day of Pence's three-day visit to the Olympic Games. The administration did not say how much notice it received

from North Korea that the meeting had been called off or where the meeting would have taken place or under what conditions.

Nor was it immediately clear whether North Korea scheduled the meeting before the vice president arrived in South Korea or after he had already arrived. The day before landing in Pyeongyang, Pence told reporters that "we haven't requested a meeting with North Korea."

A potential high-level interaction between the U.S. and North Korea, which would have broken years of estrangement between the two countries, loomed prominently over the Winter Games, where North Korea made a last-minute move to send its athletes to compete on a combined team with South Korea, the host of the games.

Since taking office, the Trump administration has been working to increase economic pressure on the North to abandon its nuclear programs while also threatening military action, insisting at the same time that a diplomatic solution would be preferable for all sides. Yet for months the Trump

administration had offered inconsistent messages about what conditions would be needed for a tete-a-tete — such as whether North Korea would have to agree that its nuclear program was on the table before the United States would be willing to sit down.

Pence's office, acknowledging the scrapped meeting Tuesday, said North Korea had "dangled a meeting" in hopes that doing so would entice the vice president to ease up on the North. Pence's office suggested that North Korea later bailed because it became clear he would hold firm on the U.S. stance if a meeting did occur.

Pence's chief of staff, Nick Ayers, said that the planned meeting — first reported by The Washington Post — would have included an "uncompromising message" delivered by Pence about the "maximum pressure campaign" the Trump administration is waging to try to deter North Korea from proceeding with its nuclear program.

"Perhaps that's why they walked away from a meeting, or perhaps they were never sincere about sitting down," Ayers said.



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

Getting a snow day

Mouhcine, 11, sleds on snow-covered mountains Feb. 14 in Tighanmin, a Middle Atlas village near Azilal, central Morocco. Bitter temperatures and heavy snowfall beleaguered several regions in Morocco, disrupting schools and cutting off villages and national highways.

Bahrain sentences activist to 5 years

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A prominent human rights activist in Bahrain was sentenced Wednesday to five years in prison over tweets alleging prison torture in his country and misconduct in Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen, despite wide international criticism of his trial.

Nabeel Rajab's sentencing marks the latest chapter in a yearslong crackdown on dissent in Bahrain, a tiny island kingdom off the coast of Saudi Arabia that's home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. He's already serving a two-year sentence handed down in July over

television interviews he gave that included criticism of Bahrain.

Rajab's legal problems began after Bahrain quashed 2011 Arab Spring protests.

In August 2012, Rajab was sentenced to three years in prison for allegedly fomenting clashes between police and protesters. He already was serving a three-month sentence for posting anti-government comments on Twitter. He was released in May 2014 after serving two years but was detained again over his comments on Twitter.

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pardoned Rajab

in July 2015 over concerns about his health after the activist served some three months in prison. But Rajab was again arrested in June 2016.

The U.S. has faced criticism over its stance on Bahrain, which hosts more than 7,000 U.S. troops, mostly sailors attached to a sprawling base called the Naval Support Activity in Manama.

President Donald Trump's administration has approved a multi-billion-dollar sale of F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain without the human rights conditions imposed by the State Department under President Barack Obama.

Trump Jr. says it's 'nonsense' that family profits from presidency

By MUNEEZA NAQVI
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Donald Trump Jr. said that any talk of his family profiting from his father's presidency is "nonsense" as he embarked on a trip to India that has raised ethical concerns about using the name of the American president to promote international business ventures.

The eldest son of President Donald Trump, who is in India to meet the promoters and buyers of Trump brand luxury homes in the country, said his family is actually missing out on business opportunities because his father pledged to conduct no new foreign business while he was in office.

Trump Jr., who along with his brother Eric now runs the Trump Organization, told Indian television channel CNBC-TV18 on Tuesday that when critics talk about them "profiteering from the presidency and all this nonsense" they forget about "the opportunity cost of the deals that we were not able to do."

"It's sort of a shame. Because we put on all these impositions on ourselves and essentially got no credit for actually doing that ... for doing the right thing," he added.

For at least a week before Trump Jr. arrived in India on Tuesday, several major Indian newspapers carried glossy, front-

page advertisements with the statement, "Trump has arrived. Have you?"

The ads promised that buyers who order apartments in a new Trump-brand luxury real estate development in a suburb of the Indian capital by Thursday will get "a conversation and dinner" with Trump Jr. a day later.

He is expected to visit and promote business in all the Trump-brand projects across four Indian cities. Media access to his events in the country has been limited, and only news organizations chosen by his team have had access to him.

The Trump Organization has licensing agreements with all its Indian business partners. They build the properties and acquire the Trump name in exchange for a fee. With five projects in India, the country is the brand's largest market outside the United States.

A luxury complex is already open in the central city of Pune, with other developments in varying stages of construction in the coastal cities of Mumbai and Kolkata, and two in Gurgaon.

All the projects were signed before Trump took office, but promoting even existing business has raised ethics concerns.

"The president should be putting the public's interest before his business interests. That can't happen if his son is flying around the world trying to trade on the fact that his father is sitting in the Oval Office," said Scott H. Amey, general counsel for the nonpartisan Project on Government Oversight in Washington. Amey said several foreign deals touted by the president's two adult sons have "stretched the definition of what ventures were previously in the works."



Trump Jr.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Deputy stabbed during distress call recovering

MD COLLEGE PARK — Authorities said a sheriff's deputy was stabbed while answering a distress call in a Maryland suburb of Washington.

Prince George's County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sharon Taylor told The Washington Post the deputy was taken to a hospital and doing well after being stabbed early Monday morning in College Park. The deputy also suffered a broken jaw and a couple of fractures.

Taylor said an arrest was not made, but a person was taken into custody to receive psychiatric services as is customary in such calls. The family of the person who was the subject of the call told authorities the person was hypoglycemic when the erratic behavior took place.

12-year-old arrested after school threats

IN DUGGER — Investigators said a 12-year-old girl was arrested after making online threats to students and staff at a school in western Indiana.

Sullivan County sheriff's officials said tips helped authorities find the girl Monday. Investigators believe she's responsible for threats via Snapchat.

Sheriff Clark Cottom said no weapons were found, and she faces a felony charge of intimidation.

The case is among about a dozen involving school threats in Indiana since the shooting last week at a Florida high school that killed 17 students and faculty.

Man accused of giving goat whiskey, cocaine

GA GRAYSON — A man Georgia authorities said participated in forcing a goat to ingest whiskey and cocaine was charged with aggravated cruelty to animals.

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that Sergio Palomares-Guzman, 28, was arrested Feb. 15 in connection with a videotaped incident believed to be from early January.

The sheriff's office said Palomares-Guzman lived on a ranch where he worked as a horse trainer. The statement says video shows him holding the goat's horns and forcing its mouth open while another man gives it substances. That man, a third suspect, remains unidentified.

The sheriff's office said the goat is healthy and has since been adopted.

Boy, 11, receives a summons for jury duty

PA WEST CHESTER — One Pennsylvania resident has been called to perform his civic duty a few years earlier than expected.

Jeanette Fox said her son, Luke, 11, received a summons from a Chester County court to appear for jury duty in March.

Fox said she tried to go online to request an exemption but there was no option to select for those too young to serve. She said she made multiple phone calls, and

THE CENSUS

50

The approximate number of rabbits that were found dead across the lawn of the State of Nevada's West Charles-ton Campus on Sunday. Their deaths came two days after the state Department of Health and Human Services' Child and Family Services Division issued a warning regarding the animals. Rabbit rescuer Tina Drouin said the deaths seem suspicious because the bodies have no abrasions. Advocates think they may have been poisoned and have sent two bodies and vegetables suspected to be covered in antifreeze for testing. They hope to rescue more rabbits before the state comes for them.



DARYN SLOVER, THE (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

Sorting sap buckets

Esperanza Echeverria sorts sap buckets while tapping trees in Sabattus, Maine, on Monday. The sugaring season is a week to 10 days ahead of schedule because of warm weather, said Ed Jilson, of Jilson's Farm & Sugarhouse. Jilson said that while the temperatures got the sap moving, the weather that came in last week was too warm.

a person who answered said the county had recently changed companies that pull the list for people who receive summonses.

Defense attorney: FBI impersonator unraveled

DE WILMINGTON — An attorney for a Maryland man who pleaded guilty to impersonating an FBI agent said the man's life began to unravel when he became addicted to painkillers and was kicked out of the Navy.

Eric Kappesser's public defender is asking a Delaware judge to sentence him to time served. He faces a maximum of three years in prison, but guidelines call for no more than six months behind bars.

Authorities say Kappesser represented himself to others as an FBI agent, including obtaining law enforcement discounts when purchasing firearms accessories and wearing a fake badge.

Kappesser's attorney said he was on his way to becoming a Navy SEAL when he was injured in a brawl in Chicago and suffered two knife wounds.

Man brandishes toy gun in church, causes scare

NM LAS CRUCES — A man caused a scare at a Las Cruces church by brandishing a toy gun during a mass.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reported that the man walked up an aisle of St. Genevieve Church on Sunday and began displaying erratic behavior. Witnesses told the newspaper that the man, who wasn't believed to be a regular attendee, raised an orange toy gun, which popped a few times.

He wasn't believed to have pointed the toy weapon at anyone or issued a verbal threat.

A group of men from the church surrounded the man and escorted him out of the building. Police said the man was intoxicated.

Officials: No dog meat on menu at restaurant

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles restaurant doesn't have permission to kill as many as three dogs a day and serve the meat to customers, despite claims in a widely shared

false story last week.

Health officials said the restaurant doesn't exist.

A post that has appeared online in various forms since at least 2014 surfaced again recently on the site quotes news. The Los Angeles County Health Department said it has no record of any restaurant named Puchow de Manila Eatery and Fine Dining. Even if there was such a place, the department said the sale of dog meat for human consumption is illegal in California.

The false story quotes World Animal Protection as being "shocked" about the restaurant, but a spokeswoman for that group said it was never asked to comment.

Tar cakes tires, slows commute on highway

NJ OLDMANSTOWNSHIP — It was a sticky commute on a New Jersey interstate after tar coated the highway.

State Trooper Alejandro Goez said the tar was in the center and right southbound lanes along a 5-mile stretch of Interstate 295 in Salem County just after 5:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The trooper said about 20 vehicles reported going over the tar between mileposts 13 and 8. The tar stuck to their tires and wheels. There were no accidents or injuries.

Students accused of selling drugs in dorm

CT HAMDEN — Two students at Quinnipiac University have been charged with selling drugs out of their dorm room, including edible squares made with marijuana and Fruity Pebbles cereal.

Police arrested Patrick Ownbey, 18, of Cherry Hill, N.J., and Shawn Wheeler, 18, of Atkinson, N.H., on Sunday. They were charged with the possession and sale of a controlled substance.

Quinnipiac said both students have been suspended pending disciplinary meetings.

Police said two other students were issued infractions for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

The students were released on \$1,000 bonds.

From wire reports

FACES



Running the risk

Kyle Chandler game for comedy challenge in new flick

WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Kyle Chandler stars in the movie "Game Night." The comedy is due out Friday in the U.S. and some installation theaters.

BY RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Kyle Chandler's new movie, "Game Night," has him playing the older half of a pair of siblings — the other portrayed by Jason Bateman — who have been competitive all their lives. The older brother has dominated their rivalry even to the point of changing what has been a rather mundane weekly get-together to play board and parlor games into a kidnapp mystery game. The comedy comes from how that fake abduction turns real.

Dealing with the competition part of the role came easy to Chandler. He grew up with two older brothers and an older sister who not only bested him in every game, but also often felt compelled to toss Chandler around the room like an old Monopoly shoe.

"Most of my childhood, I was tortured by them," Chandler says. "I wasn't allowed to play many games, but my older brothers did throw me around like a football. My sister is seven years older than me and did some really horrible things to me that I can't talk about because I think they were illegal and legal action will be taken."

Chandler sounds like he's joking, but there's enough competitive spirit in him that he has at least thought about how to get some revenge on his siblings. In a tone that sounds like an evil master criminal detailing his scheme, Chandler talks about the plans he had drawn up to help him get back at his brothers and sisters. The only thing holding him back is "getting enough money to buy the equipment and vehicles he needs to put the plan forward. I'll get them back."

All joking aside, Chandler felt nothing but support from his family — especially his siblings — when he decided to leave rural Georgia to go to Hollywood to work on his acting career. His big break came with the TV series "Tour of Duty," and he's worked steadily since then, including the new comedy film.

In "Game Night," it's Bateman's character that is out of balance with his competitiveness. He and his wife, Annie (Rachel McAdams), have been holding weekly game night battles with friends. The other regulars include Ryan (Billy Magnussen) and his date, Sarah (Sharon Horgan), along with the couple of Kevin (Lamorne Morris) and Michelle (Kylee Bunbury). Before the night is over, the players will have to rob a gangster, take a bullet, defeat professional hit men, break every driving rule and avoid death multiple times.

“... As far as with stupid games we play with our spouses or family or anyone, you're damn right I'm competitive. I am the best loser in the world because I generally lose at everything but I am an even worse winner. I will brag and I will rub your nose in it. Even my kids will tell you that.”

Competition — a less physical version — became even more a part of Chandler's life when he decided to make acting his career choice. Every time he went into an audition, Chandler had to compete with everyone else who wanted the part. Even when he landed a role, there was the challenge to do his best so the next round of competition would grow easier.

"Competition is just part of being an actor," Chandler says. "I don't think anyone can get this far in the business I am in and not be competitive. It just doesn't work. As far as with stupid games we play with our spouses or family or anyone, you're damn right I'm competitive."

"I am the best loser in the world because I generally lose at everything but I am an even worse winner. I will brag and I will rub your nose in it. Even my kids will tell you that."

There's a slight echo of sarcasm in Chandler's voice when he talks about his competitive spirit. In a more serious tone, he suggests having a competitive drive can be good because it shows that even when things go bad, there generally is something good to be found. The key, adds Chandler, is to find the balance.

Landing the role on "Game Night" helped Chandler find some balance in his acting career. The film gives him the rare opportunity to do comedy. Chandler has had so much success with dramas like "Friday Night Lights" (which earned him a 2011 Emmy as Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series).

"I love comedy. Early in my career I got to do a few roles like 'Homefront' and 'Early Edition,' where I got to mix in some of the characters that I grew up watching like the Jimmy Stewarts and Cary Grants who would do screwball comedies," Chandler says. "I just loved that timing and the dance they would play."

"But, mostly, I played dramatic roles where people would see this character with this gravitas. To be able to do something this funny was a little bit intimidating at first because 'comedy' is a magic word. All the way through, I got to play everything you can do in comedy, but it is all in one film."

Chandler knew this wasn't just a role with comic elements, but he would have to play some dark comedy moments mixed with self-deprecating humor. At times, the character is the biggest fool in the room, and then moments later will show he has the biggest heart. Add the element of sincerity to the character being a bit of a screwball, and Chandler not only had won the competition to take on a comedy role, but landed a part with deep layers.

Mitch Albom's sequel to bestseller due in October

Mitch Albom is giving heaven a sequel.

Publisher Harper tells the Associated Press that Albom's "The Next Person You Meet in Heaven" is coming out Oct. 16. The novel is a follow-up to Albom's best-selling "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," which came out in 2003.

The new book continues the stories of Eddie the maintenance man and of Annie, the young girl whose life he saves while losing his own. Albom says in a statement Wednesday that readers often asked him what happened to Eddie and Annie. He says "The Next Person You Meet in Heaven" was a "natural" for him to write.

"The Five People You Meet in Heaven" was adapted into a 2004 TV movie starring Jon Voight and Ellen Burstyn.

Other news

■ Queen Elizabeth II has always dressed with style and flair — but Tuesday marked her first visit to the catwalks of London Fashion Week. The monarch squeezed in the front row, chatting with American Vogue editor Anna Wintour and presented an award recognizing British design excellence. "As a tribute to the industry, and as my legacy to all those who have contributed to British fashion, I would like to present this award for new, young talent," she said. The royal family has often hosted Fashion Week receptions for top designers and journalists, but the new award — and the queen's personal visit — have added a new dimension to its support for the industry. The recipient was Richard Quinn, a recent fashion graduate who started his own label in 2016.

■ Academy Awards producers announced Wednesday that Gal Gadot and Mark Hamill will appear on the show, along with fellow Star Wars actors Oscar Isaac and Kelly Marie Tran. Producers say Lin-Manuel Miranda, Gina Rodriguez, Armie Hammer and Zendaya also have been booked as presenters. Previously announced stars appearing on the March 4 telecast include "Black Panther" Chadwick Boseman, comedian Tiffany Haddish, "Spider-Man" Tom Holland and Margot Robbie.

■ Award-winning chef Jose Andres is working on a book about his efforts to help Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Ecco told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it has acquired "We Fed An Island: The True Story of Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time." The book is scheduled for Sept. 11 and is co-written by Richard Wolffe. A portion of proceeds will be given to the Chef Relief Network of Andres' nonprofit World Central Kitchen.

■ Author Stephen King is calling a Maine congressman an "NRA sweetheart" for receiving thousands of dollars from the gun rights advocacy group. King urges residents in a Tuesday tweet to not vote for Republican U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin in November, citing his support from the National Rifle Association. The Maine-born novelist has posted tweets about gun policy since a Florida high school shooting last week that left 17 people dead. Poliquin adviser Brent Littlefield says the incumbent congressman is a strong Second Amendment supporter who won't respond directly to a "Hollywood person."

■ Actor George Clooney and his wife, Amal Clooney, are donating \$500,000 to students organizing nationwide marches against gun violence, and they say they'll also attend next month's planned protests. In a statement released Tuesday, the couple says they're inspired by the "courage and eloquence" of the survivors-turned-activists from Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Investors win with companies' tax-saving plans

By BERNARD CONDON

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's just what the GOP said we'd hear from a CEO after being handed a big tax break.

But when Charles Scharf announced plans last month to spend his company's tax savings on higher wages and technology, investors began selling.

The Bank of New York Mellon CEO said he had a responsibility to "share the benefit" with workers and build the "company of the future." But investors want to share in the tax bounty as well — through higher dividends and buybacks. By the end of the day, the bank's stock was down 4.4 percent.

The biggest tax rewrite in three decades was sold by its Republican backers as a way to help American workers, and there have been announcements about bonuses and plans to buy equipment and make other capital investments to improve productivity and raise wages. But much more money has been earmarked for dividends and buybacks.

Retailer Lowe's has authorized \$7.1 billion in buybacks, triple the level planned before the tax overhaul. Radio giant Sirius XM has increased its program by a fifth to \$12 billion. And Wednesday, Cisco announced the biggest number of all — a \$25 billion increase to its repurchase program.

Buybacks, in which companies purchase their own shares and retire them, are popular with investors because fewer shares outstanding lifts earnings per share, the most watched barometer of corporate success.

A recent survey by Morgan Stanley showed Wall Street stock analysts expect companies to allocate 43 percent of tax savings

Buybacks, in which companies purchase their own shares and retire them, are popular with investors because fewer shares outstanding lifts earnings per share.

to dividends and buybacks. Capital spending and workers will get 17 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

The flood of buybacks could help drive stocks higher during a touchy moment in the market. They've played that role before in the nine-year bull market as companies step in to lift share prices at crucial moments when traditional buyers like insurers and individual investors turned to sellers.

But critics note that stocks now are more expensive relative to long-term earnings than at any time since the dot-com boom and that the money might be wasted if stocks drop anyway. They also argue that money used for buybacks — trillions of dollars in recent years — is often better spent on improving operations and making workers more productive, which can lead to "real" wage increases that do more than just keep up with inflation.

"What are you getting from buying back stock? It doesn't generate any growth, any real activity," said James Abate, chief investment officer of Centre Asset Management.

To be sure, the tax overhaul

isn't all about buybacks and may end up helping workers too. The conservative Americans for Tax Reform has been touting its tally of 3 million workers promised bonuses and other compensation gains so far, a number cited by President Donald Trump in his State of the Union address. That's welcome news given the slow growth in wages in recent years.

But economists say that cut gauge the full impact of tax cuts on workers, look not to bonuses, but to how much companies are spending on software and equipment and training to make workers more productive. They say that is the way to permanently raise pay, and there indeed appears to be a pickup in these capital outlays recently.

The day the tax law was passed, Boeing said it planned to increase spending by \$300 million on worker training and infrastructure "enhancement." Defense contractor Raytheon said it will increase spending on factories and big projects by 50 percent to more than \$900 million this year.

UPS said it plans to use a chunk of its tax saving — as much as \$7 billion — on new planes to ship goods, automation at its warehouses and other capital spending.

Companies could also get a boost from lower taxes, as could their workers, if it leads to customers spending more.

The CEO of homebuilder Lennar told Wall Street analysts early last month that he is hoping for more business from "frustrated apartment dwellers" if new, lower tax rates make it easier to save for down payments. A day later, Delta's president said he expected more people are going to fly because they'll have extra spending money. General Motors is hoping lower taxes for drivers

will spark more sales.

For some big companies, it's made sense to hold back on expanding operations and producing exports.

Experts say the problem those companies face, with or without the tax overhaul, is the same one they've faced for at least a decade: The world is awash in raw materials and goods, and demand hasn't kept up with this supply.

Even companies pumping sizable amounts of money back into their business are ramping up buybacks as well.

Thanks to the new tax law, drugmaker Pfizer last month announced it would spend \$5 billion on expanding factories and other capital spending in the U.S. for the next five years in addition to spending on bonuses and contributions to its U.S. pension fund.

That is a large funding promise, though smaller than the total authorized for buybacks. The company recently set aside another \$10 billion for repurchases, bringing the total it plans to spend on its stock to more than \$16 billion.

Manufacturing giant 3M said it will use \$600 million of its tax saving to bolster pensions for U.S. workers and will increase capital

spending by as much as \$100 million this year. But the company also said it expects to increase its buybacks by more — adding perhaps \$1 billion to its program.

By one count, new money earmarked to buybacks announced since the law was passed already top \$160 billion. Add that to old plans for the programs, and total share repurchases this year could exceed the \$589 billion record in 2007, right before stocks began to drop by more than half in the financial crisis.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 22)	\$1.2647
Dollar buys (Feb. 22)	€0.7907
British pound (Feb. 22)	\$1.47
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	104.00
South Korean won (Feb. 22)	1,046.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.3944
Canada (Dollar)	1.2668
China (Yuan)	6.3389
Denmark (Krone)	6.6040
Egypt (Pound)	1.6684
Euro	\$1.2324/0.8114
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8250
Hungary (Forint)	253.16
Israel (Shekel)	3.4905
Japan (Yen)	107.53
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2999
Norway (Krone)	7.8585
Philippines (Peso)	52.11
Poland (Zloty)	3.38
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3204
South Korea (Won)	1,072.56
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9372
Thailand (Baht)	31.45
Turkey (New Lira)	7.8682

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.42
3-month bill	1.42
30-year bond	3.15

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 20, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-254.63
	24,964.75
Nasdaq composite	-5.16
	7,234.31
Standard & Poor's 500	-15.96
	2,716.26
Russell 2000	-13.56
	1,529.99

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Lobbying for an end to coerced union fees

By GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

Overturning mistaken decisions is an occasional duty of the Supreme Court, whose noblest achievement was the protracted, piecemeal repudiation, with Brown v. Board of Education (1954) and subsequent decisions, of its 1896 ruling that segregated "separate but equal" public facilities were constitutional. On Monday, the court will hear oral arguments that probably will presage another overdue correction.

The issue is: Are Mark Janus' First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and association (which entails the freedom not to associate) violated when government requires him, an employee, to pay "fair share" or "agency" fees to a private entity, a labor union, to which government has given exclusive power to represent him, although he chooses not to be a member? Janus argues that an exclusive representative "is indistinguishable from a government-appointed lobbyist." The fees are usually significantly more than half — sometimes up to 100 percent of — union dues.

In its 1977 Aboud decision, the court upheld such exactions. But the ruling contained the seeds of its coming — by this June — reversal, because it acknowledged this: "There can be no quarrel with the truism that, because public employee unions attempt to influence governmental policymaking, their activities... may be properly termed political." And in a concurring opinion, Justice Lewis Powell noted that "the ultimate objective of a union in the public sector, like that of a political party, is to influence public decision-making." So Aboud made compulsory political contributions unconstitutional.

For 41 years, the court has advanced the slow-motion undoing of Aboud with decisions subjecting various instances of compelled speech to strict scrutiny. For example, in 1983 it held that "speech on public issues occupies the 'highest rung' of the



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

A case to be argued Monday at the U.S. Supreme Court is likely to affect the financial viability of unions that represent government workers.

hierarchy of First Amendment values." In 2014, the court said it is a "bedrock principle that, except perhaps in the rarest of circumstances, no person in this country may be compelled to subsidize speech by a third party that he or she does not wish to support."

Aboud ignored the inherently political nature of bargaining by government employees' unions. In America's 27 right-to-work states, employees cannot be forced to join a union as a condition of employment. In the other 23, including Janus' Illinois, workers must join a union or pay fees. The supposed constitutionality of this compelled speech rests on the fiction that these fees pay only the costs of collective bargaining, from which the fee payers benefit.

In private-sector collective bargaining, management and labor negotiate about how to distribute companies' profits. No comparably adversarial process exists in the public sector. There government, which acquires its "profits" (revenues) from a third party — taxpayers — "negotiates" with unions that have an interest in government doing what it wants to do anyway: expand. Because government is both employer and policymaker, collective bargaining by the union is inherently political advocacy and

indistinguishable from lobbying. Hence in 2012 the court acknowledged that compulsory fees are "compelled speech and association" implicating on First Amendment rights. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was right: "The process of collective bargaining, as usually understood, cannot be transplanted into the public service."

Although organized labor's portion of the U.S. private-sector workforce has plummeted from around 35 percent in 1953 to 6.5 percent today, it now organizes about one-third of local, state and national government workers. Organized labor now is primarily governments organized as interest groups.

Union officials' salaries and benefits are the biggest expense of the union that Janus is forced to finance (the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees). It is factually implausible that most of what these officials do is devoted exclusively to collective bargaining and is hermetically sealed from AFSCME's aggressive promotion of its broad political agenda. Besides, money is fungible. Money extracted from reluctant nonmembers can fund activities that otherwise would have been paid for with money that now can be devoted to other political causes.

And AFSCME's approximately 3,400 local unions calculate their own supposed "collective bargaining" allocations. So each enjoys vast discretion in deciding which of its expenditures are germane to collective bargaining, and therefore what their nonmembers owe to the union.

Many democrats are, or say they are, distraught about "big money" and there being "too much" money in political campaigns. They will, however, be seriously distraught if help arrives by June with Janus winning. This will stop the coerced flow of money to government workers' unions, which in the 2016 election cycle spent \$63.9 million on political advertising supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

Disclosure: This columnist's wife, Mari Will, is an adviser to Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, who originally filed the lawsuit that became Janus v. AFSCME.

Brexit won't dim I.K.'s security contribution

By ARTHUR I. CYR
Special to Stars and Stripes

Anxiety and uncertainty is understandable about Brexit, the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. Prime Minister Theresa May's government has been slow and unclear in approaching now imminent negotiations.

Officials and serious media also understandably focus on details related to trade, investment and immigration, but there are also defense dimensions.

In May 2016, a month before the Brexit referendum, The Economist weekly published an analysis of security implications. May, at the time home secretary, stressed the European Arrest Warrant. She and other heads of MI5 and MI6, Britain's intelligence agencies, also emphasized data sharing. They were reacting to Sir Richard Dearlove, another retired MI6 head, who stated that "the truth about Brexit from a national security perspective is that the cost to Britain would be low."

Even if Sir Richard is right, EU departure provides incentive to review and possibly expand collaboration in the realms of intelligence and security. Both Britain and Ireland are members of the EU, but Britain is also a NATO stalwart, while Ireland is strongly neutral.

NATO provides a durable structure for defense cooperation, including in the field

of intelligence. Additionally, there is the more informal but important "Five Eyes" intelligence network, which includes Australia, Canada and New Zealand along with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Brexiters are suspicious of relatively open borders, and interference in national defense by EU administrators and officials. They also fear loss of national sovereignty to the European Court of Justice.

Two interrelated arenas promising expansion of Anglo-American cooperation are in gathering information and fighting low-intensity conflicts, including but not limited to international terrorism.

Military intelligence was at the core from the start of Anglo-American collaboration in World War II. William J. Donovan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's handpicked liaison with Britain and a gifted intelligence operative, shaped the Office of Strategic Services that evolved into the Central Intelligence Agency after the war. A portrait of Bill Donovan is prominently displayed at CIA headquarters in Virginia.

Britain's varied experience in this general field includes successfully defeating the Communist insurgency in Malaya in the years leading up to the Vietnam War. British special operations forces also successfully repulsed an attack by Indonesia on the new state of Malaysia in 1965. That was the same year the Johnson adminis-

tration drastically escalated direct military involvement in Vietnam.

Over the past two decades, Britain confirmed remarkable success in maintaining the Northern Ireland peace agreement. Defeating violent separatists of the Provisional Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland provides a wealth of insight regarding combating a determined revolutionary group that employs terrorist tactics.

The Five Eyes has a durable importance that reaches well beyond the NATO alliance region. Among the members, the United States looms by far the largest in terms of sheer scale of resources and personnel, though not in experience and skill, especially regarding human intelligence.

Future NATO efforts in intelligence realms and others will benefit from the Anglo-American partnership and Britain's experience as a diplomatic broker between Europe and North America. The U.S. National Security Council, not the Pentagon, is the best base for such cooperation. In specific terms, the Five Eyes group should be a higher priority in involvement of senior foreign policy officials of all governments, and troops of collaborative forces.

Militarily, the U.S. often reacts to reversals by increasing firepower, while the British are more likely to rethink policy.

We need them more than ever.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College and author of "After the Cold War."

OPINION

Trump administration missing in action in Europe

By JOSH ROGIN
The Washington Post

More than a year into the Trump administration, the crucial relationship between the United States and western European democracies is adrift. The United States' failure to lead the way forward for the transatlantic alliance was on full display last weekend in Germany.

At the Munich Security Conference, the premier annual European diplomatic confab, there was a clear mission: to reinvigorate the very U.S. alliance with European democracies the conference was invented to defend after World War II. Ewald Heinrich von Kleist, a German officer who participated in the plot to kill Adolf Hitler, founded the annual meeting in 1963 to promote the alliance, the liberal international order and the values that underpin it.

But at this year's event, the United States' presence was scaled down. Even when U.S. officials spoke, they failed to reassure nervous allies that the Trump administration had their back. More consequentially, the Trump administration also failed to present a forward-looking vision for U.S.-Europe relations or propose real solutions to shared problems.

The Trump administration's attendance — or lack thereof — spoke volumes. Most years, the U.S. secretaries of state or defense (or both) address the conference. Last year, Vice President Mike Pence and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis delivered keynote addresses meant to reassure nervous allies worried about President Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric.

This year, zero Cabinet-level Trump administration officials spoke. Mattis and CIA Director Mike Pompeo were in the hotel but only for private meetings. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson literally flew over Germany on his way back from Turkey, but didn't bother to stop, dispatching his deputy in his place.

"The United States was in many ways



SVEN HOPPE, DPA/AP

Left: H.R. McMaster, U.S. national security adviser, speaks at the Munich Security Conference in Germany on Saturday. Right: Former Vice President Joe Biden gives the Heinrich von Kleist award to Cindy McCain, the wife of Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, at the Bavarian State Chancellery in Munich on Saturday.



ANDREAS GEBERT, DPA/AP

missing in action at Wehrkunde," said former U.S. Ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder, using the original German name for the conference. "The decision by Mattis not to speak was in some ways worse than him not showing up."

National security adviser H.R. McMaster delivered the lone Trump administration speech, in which he made news by calling Russian interference in America's 2016 election "incontrovertible" following special counsel Robert Mueller's indictment of 13 Russians and three companies. The impact of that declaration was diluted when Trump undermined McMaster in a tweet only hours later.

Many attendees noted what McMaster didn't say. He didn't offer a strategy to combat Russian meddling or a plan to strengthen the Western liberal order in the face of a rollback of democratic values and the rise of European populism.

"The United States is no longer trying to solve problems in Europe or with Europe," said Daalder. "Is anyone looking to Washington for a solution? And to the extent we are offering solutions, they are negative."

Some European officials at the conference pushed back against the Trump administration's mantra demanding their governments spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense. Others defended plans for the European Union to develop its own common defense, a project U.S. and NATO officials are watching warily.

There are some good developments in the Trump administration's Europe policy. The administration has increased defense support under the European Reassurance Initiative, begun under the Obama administration. The State Department now has a confirmed assistant secretary for Europe, Wess Mitchell, who is well-respected by allies.

But there's still no clarity on how the Trump administration views the EU and no positive trade agenda. Trump himself still has not come out as a strong supporter of the transatlantic alliance, and he sometimes echoes the populist rhetoric Western European allies fear.

"Tell me what Trump is for in Europe," said former Pentagon official Evelyn Parkas, now a senior fellow at the Atlantic

Council. "There's continuity with previous administrations at the working level, but you need leadership to really make it matter."

Despite this situation, several Europeans at the conference told me they were still dedicated to the transatlantic alliance, mostly because there is no better alternative. Many argued the Trump administration will be an anomaly in U.S. history and all Europe must do is hold the line and wait it out.

"Others have to keep the light until America returns to be the shining city on the hill," said Karl Kaiser, a German political scientist now at Harvard University. "We don't give up on the Americans, who saved us from the Nazis and protected us from the Russians."

European transatlanticists are fighting an uphill battle in their home countries against anti-American forces. The Trump administration's mishandling of the relationship harms their ability to help us.

What is missing from the Trump administration's "America First" message is the recognition that the United States does well for itself when it does well for others. On issues ranging from counterterrorism to cyberdefense to immigration to countering Russia, deepening cooperation with Europe is the best way to keep the United States safe.

That argument was left in Munich to the U.S. congressional delegation, whose usual head, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., could not attend due to his ongoing battle with cancer. His wife, Cindy McCain, delivered his remarks at the dinner where he was honored.

"The real reason we come to Munich is because we believe that certain values should order our world ... that the peace and prosperity we cherish depend on the survival and success of those values ... and that they are worth the fighting for," McCain's text said.

Josh Rogin is a columnist for the *Global Opinions* section of *The Washington Post*. He writes about foreign policy and national security.

Americans in the weeds often shun experts in their fields

By TOM NICHOLS

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Americans increasingly desire experts, and reject expert advice because we equate expertise with elitism and snobbery. And yet we're lucky to live among them, even if we only tend to appreciate their advice when something goes wrong, at which point we have no choice but to depend on their knowledge.

The day after Christmas, I was standing in the rubble of what had once been my family room, looking up through a burned hole in the ceiling into my living room. I was in shock, as people always are after a traumatic event like the house fire that had driven me from my home, along with my wife and my cat.

Around me, groups of people were talking. I saw men, firefighters, building inspectors, an electrician, a plumber, a contractor, even the town administrator. All of these professionals were speaking to each other about the damage and what needed to be done.

I didn't understand a word of it.

I felt completely helpless. I have a doctorate in international relations. I have written several books. My advice has been sought by politicians, government agencies, private industry and the media. I am

a veteran teacher with awards for the quality of my instruction.

None of that mattered as I stood there, a ridiculous figure with my unwashed mop of hair, some sweat pants tucked into unlaced boots, shivering in a T-shirt under my heavy coat as the temperature plummeted and the acrid stink of smoke seeped into my clothes.

Mostly, I was in the way. At one point, one of the workers gently moved me a few feet away from the damage, because the remains of the fireplace and chimney I was gawking at might collapse on my head.

That's when I realized I was in the care of experts who were as good at their jobs as I was at mine. The plumber made sure the pipes were safe. The electrician made sure there was enough power to keep some heaters on in the face of a deep freeze, and then confidently dove into a tangle of burned wires I was certain no human being could fix. (I would rather have been looking at an ICBM. At least I know how those work.)

My house swarmed with people doing what they do best. More carpenters and electricians. Painters, a stonemason, debris removal specialists. They communicated fluently with each other in the language of house repair.

Most of them were happy to explain to me what they were doing, and I did my best to learn as much as I could. But sometimes,

I was just lost. When a master electrician told me why my new outlets were safer than the old ones, I nodded politely until a nearby contractor overheard us and realized I couldn't keep up. They dumbled it down for me.

Each expert relied on another's set of skills. The plumber and the electrician worked together to get the heat back on, while the carpenters and the mason made sure the new fireplace would hold. It was an ongoing illustration of the division of labor.

One day, toward the end of the repairs, one of the painters asked me my preference about something that I didn't understand. "Jim," I laughed, "if you want to know about nuclear weapons, I'm your man. If you're asking me about primers, I have no idea what you're talking about."

The painter chuckled, and then told me what he was going to do with my walls. Then he asked: "So ... what's going to happen with this thing with North Korea?"

For once I didn't feel bewildered. I gave him my best guess about how things might play out, trying to muster my skills as a teacher. He nodded, and went back to painting.

Asking questions of experts, whether painters or political scientists, is how we learn from each other. Most experts are happy to share their knowledge — if

they're asked by people who care about the answers.

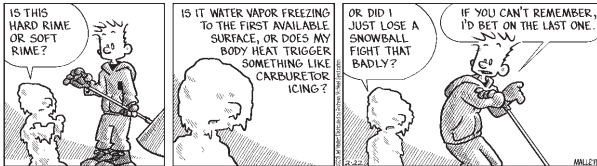
But too many Americans are unwilling to ask useful questions, or they resist answers that conflict with their preconceptions. They prefer instead to express strong views on anything from vaccines to foreign policy even if they lack basic knowledge about those subjects. Over half of the American public would support attacking North Korea; only about a third can even find it on a map. Similarly, a 2014 poll found that Americans who support U.S. military intervention in Ukraine are among the least likely to know where it is.

We will never know why the fireplace that started the fire was constructed so poorly. Over a half-century ago, someone who was supposed to be an expert either made a mistake or cut a corner. Or maybe he just wasn't good at his job, and I was the last one to know it.

But when that one long-ago mistake nearly cost me everything, I was glad to be in the hands of people who were no less expert at their work than I am at mine. However satisfying it might be on occasion to hiss at "experts," none of us can live without them.

Tom Nichols is a professor at the Naval War College and Harvard Extension School and the author of "The Death of Expertise."

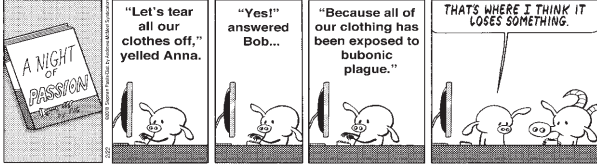
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



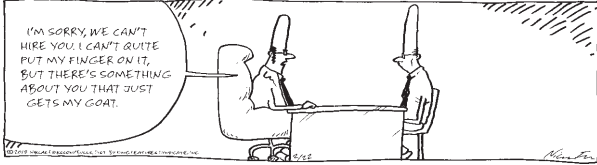
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18								19	20			
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			38		39			40				
41	42					43				44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Radiate
- 5 Netting
- 9 Hotel amenity
- 12 Meditative practice
- 13 Canyon
- 14 Chest muscle
- 17 Allow
- 18 Derivative looks
- 19 Seasonal songs
- 21 Concerning
- 22 "Zorba the Greek" star
- 24 Sciences' partner
- 27 Day light
- 28 Wax-coated cheese
- 31 "The Raven" writer

DOWN

- 52 Corn recipe
- 53 Actress Winslet
- 54 Computer key
- 55 Oodles
- 56 Passel
- 23 Military group
- 24 iPhone download
- 25 Caviar base
- 26 Wonderful
- 27 Synagogue
- 29 "Exodus" hero
- 30 Avril follower
- 35 Capital lead-in
- 37 Bath tub seals
- 39 Skilled
- 40 — de mer
- 41 Aftermath
- 42 Love god
- 43 Beholds
- 44 "Hud" Oscar winner
- 45 Pot starter
- 46 Leftovers recipe
- 49 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 50 Wolf Blitz's channel

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	I	N	E	L	M	O	B	I	T
E	R	G	O	R	O	E	P	Y	R	O
N	E	O	N	S	I	G	N	E	D	A
E	A	T	O	U	T	L	I	N	E	N
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M	A	R	T	E	A	S	O	I	L	S
D	R	E	G	A	S	P	E	G	O	S
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C	A	S	T	L	E	S	I	E	G	S
O	F	I	T	P	L	U	S	S	I	G
A	R	G	O	E	Y	E	A	L	G	A
T	O	N	S	L	E	D	S	T	O	P

2-22

CRYPTOQUIP

NFBEU CPI PHTJ NJJO
ZBHFOJE ZI EJXFTJB
FOZJBISSEFYJ GFUFTJU
ZI HXX ZPJ YI-CIBLJBU:
GJGI-XHBLU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I AM COMPLETELY AFRAID TO GO NEAR POOCHES THAT ARE ROAMING FREELY. IT'S THE LEASHED I CAN DO.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T


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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Pro baseball

Remaining free agents

NEW YORK — The 82 remaining free agents are projected to be available for signing on Feb. 23. **AMERICAN LEAGUE** — **BALTIMORE** — J. Alvarez, 2b; Ch. Centeno, 1b; J. Hardy, ss; Jeremy Hellickson, 3b; Ubaldo Jimenez, 1b; Seth Smith, 1b; Chris Tillman, 1b. **BOSTON** (3) — Fernando Abad, 1b; Blake Snider, 1b; Chris Young, 1b. **CHICAGO** (2) — Mike Pelfrey, 1b; Geovany Soto, 1b.

DETROIT (1) — Anibal Sanchez, 1b; Justin Verlander, 1b; Carlos Beltran, 1b; Trevor Clippard, 1b; Francisco Lirio, 1b; Cameron Maybin, 1b.

LOS ANGELES (7) — Andrew Bailey, 1b; Clayton Kershaw, 1b; Yulieski Escobar, 1b; Ricky Nolasco, 1b; Brandon Phillips, 1b; Justin Smoak, 1b; Matt Kemp, 1b. **MINNESOTA** (4) — Matt Tate, 1b; Glen Perkins, 1b.

SEATTLE (3) — Jarrod Dyson, 1b; Carlos Rodriguez, 1b; Denny Valencia, 1b. **TAMPA BAY** (4) — a-Glex Cobb, 1b; Luis Diaz, 1b; Logan Morrison, 1b; Colby Rasmus, 1b.

TEXAS (3) — Carlos Gomez, 1b; Jason Giambi, 1b; Mike Napoli, 1b. **TORONTO** (3) — Brett Anderson, 1b; Jose Bautista, 1b; Michael Saunders, 1b.

NATIONAL LEAGUE — **ARIZONA** (4) — Jorge De La Rosa, 1b; J.D. Martinez, 1b; Kris Bryant, 1b; R. Dickie, 1b. **CHICAGO** (4) — a-Jake Arrieta, 1b; Jon Jay, 1b; John Lackey, 1b; Joey Uehara, 1b.

CINCINNATI (3) — Bronson Arroyo, 1b; Steve Ladd, 1b; Drew Storen, 1b. **COLORADO** (4) — Carlos Gonzalez, 1b; Nolan Arenz, 1b; Jonathan Villar, 1b; Mark Reynolds, 1b.

MIAMI (4) — Mike Aviles, 1b; J. Ellis, 1b; Jose Reyes, 1b; Andre Ethier, 1b; Franklin Gutierrez, 1b.

MILWAUKEE (2) — Matt Garza, 1b; Neil Walker, 1b.

PITTSBURGH (1) — Clay Buchholz, 1b.

PITTSBURGH (3) — Joaquin Benoit, 1b; John Jaso, 1b; Chris Stewart, 1b.

ST. LOUIS (2) — a-Lance Lynn, 1b; Michael Morse, 1b.

SAN DIEGO (1) — Eric Aybar, ss.

SAN FRANCISCO (2) — Matt Cain, 1b; Michael Morse, 1b.

SAN FRANCISCO (2) — Jose Blanton, 1b; Alejandro De Alaz, 1b; Stephen Drew, 1b; Adam Lind, 1b; Oliver Perez, 1b; Jayson Werth, 1b.

MLB calendar — Feb. 24 — Mandatory reporting date. March 29 — Opening day. Active rosters reduced to 25 players.

Ch. 4 — Cleveland vs. Minnesota at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Feb. 24 — Opening meetings. New York Red Bulls vs. Chicago Fire.

Feb. 24 — Amateur draft begins. June 15 — International amateur signing period closes. June 15 — International amateur signing period opens.

World rankings

Through Feb. 18

1. Dustin Johnson	USA	10.65
2. Jon Rahm	ESP	8.99
3. Jordan Spieth	USA	8.80
4. Justin Thomas	USA	8.78
5. Justin Rose	ENG	7.93
6. Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	7.12
7. Rickie Fowler	USA	6.64
8. Jason Day	AUS	6.57
9. Brooks Koepka	USA	5.95
10. Rory McIlroy	NIR	5.65
11. Sergio Garcia	ESP	5.46
12. Tommy Fleetwood	ENG	5.28
13. Henrik Stenson	SWD	5.20
14. Brian Hershman	USA	5.11
15. Tyrrell Hatton	ENG	4.72
16. Matt Kuchar	USA	4.69
17. Adam Long	USA	4.41
18. Paul Casey	ENG	4.39
19. Rafael Cabrera Bello	CUB	4.37
20. Brian Harman	USA	3.69
21. Xander Schauffele	USA	3.50
22. Charles Hoffman	USA	3.45
23. Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.40
24. Patrick Reed	USA	3.35
25. Gary Woodland	USA	3.32
26. Adam Scott	AUS	3.30
27. Branden Grace	SAF	3.27
28. Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	3.21
29. Matthew Fitzpatrick	ENG	3.15
30. Kevin Kisner	USA	3.11
31. Phil Mickelson	USA	3.08

PGA TOUR FedEx Cup leaders

Through Feb. 18

1. Patton Kizzire	1,247	\$2,961,988
2. Justin Johnson	1,242	\$2,538,667
3. Jordan Spieth	1,240	\$2,101,184
4. Brenden Steele	1,240	\$1,832,041
5. Hideki Matsuyama	1,240	\$1,554,658
6. Tony Finau	1,240	\$1,104,336
7. Adam Long	1,240	\$1,056,177
8. Paul Casey	1,240	\$1,032,277
9. Justin Thomas	1,240	\$1,231,800
10. Sergio Garcia	1,240	\$1,187,485
11. Gary Woodland	1,240	\$1,177,914
12. Henrik Stenson	1,240	\$1,177,914
13. Brian Hershman	1,240	\$1,177,914
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13. Brian Hershman	1,240	\$1,177,914
14. Tyrrell Hatton	1,240	\$1,177,914
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31. Phil Mickelson	1,240	\$1,177,914

PGA TOUR FedEx Cup leaders

Through Feb. 18

1. Patton Kizzire	1,247	\$2,961,988
2. Justin Johnson	1,242	\$2,538,667
3. Jordan Spieth	1,240	\$2,101,184
4. Brenden Steele	1,240	\$1,832,041
5. Hideki Matsuyama	1,240	\$1,554,658
6. Tony Finau	1,240	\$1,104,336
7. Adam Long	1,240	\$1,056,177
8. Paul Casey	1,240	\$1,032,277
9. Justin Thomas	1,240	\$1,231,800
10. Sergio Garcia	1,240	\$1,187,485
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PGA TOUR FedEx Cup leaders

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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	50	49	17	3	83	215	161		
Boston	58	37	13	8	81	281	142		
Toronto	52	37	20	5	79	205	172		
Florida	57	26	25	6	58	166	186		
Detroit	59	24	26	8	57	157	177		
Montreal	59	23	29	8	52	151	188		
Ottawa	58	21	28	9	51	158	204		
Buffalo	50	17	31	11	45	143	196		

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Washington	60	34	19	1	75	187	180		
Pittsburgh	61	35	22	4	74	185	184		
Philadelphia	60	31	29	12	72	181	174		
New Jersey	60	31	29	8	70	181	183		
Columbus	60	30	25	5	65	159	170		
Carolina	60	27	30	10	64	162	180		
N.Y. Islanders	61	29	26	6	64	203	219		
N.Y. Rangers	60	27	28	5	59	173	191		

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Nashville	59	36	14	3	81	185	154		
Winnipeg	60	35	16	9	79	199	161		
Dallas	59	34	21	4	72	179	157		
St. Louis	61	34	23	4	72	173	156		
Minnesota	59	32	20	7	71	177	169		
Colorado	59	32	23	4	68	184	177		
Chicago	60	35	27	8	58	170	173		

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Vegas	59	39	16	8	82	202	160		
San Jose	60	33	19	8	74	178	163		
Los Angeles	60	33	22	5	71	174	149		
Anaheim	60	31	21	11	71	169	170		
Calgary	60	30	21	9	69	169	175		
Vancouver	60	33	30	7	66	194	194		
Edmonton	59	24	31	4	52	164	194		
Arizona	59	17	32	10	44	143	197		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild card per conference advance to playoffs.

Monday's games

Minnesota 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
Washington 3, Buffalo 2
Boston 4, Calgary 1, OT
Nashville 5, Ottawa 2
Los Angeles 3, Chicago 1
Anaheim 2, Vegas 0

Tuesday's games

Philadelphia 3, Montreal 2, OT
Tampa Bay 4, Washington 2
Columbus 2, New Jersey 1
Toronto 1, Florida 0
Nashville 3, Detroit 2
San Jose 3, St. Louis 2
Los Angeles 4, Winnipeg 3
Boston 3, Edmonton 2
Colorado 5, Vancouver 4, OT

Wednesday's games

Ottawa at Chicago
Dallas at Anaheim
Calgary at Vegas

Thursday's games

Columbus at Philadelphia
Minnesota at New Jersey
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto
Washington at Florida
Buffalo at Detroit
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
Tampa Bay at Ottawa
San Jose at Nashville
Colorado at Edmonton
Calgary at Arizona
Dallas at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Winnipeg at St. Louis
San Jose at Chicago
Vancouver at Vegas

Saturday

Kings 4, Jets 3

Los Angeles 0 2 2 4-4
Winnipeg 1 0 0 0-0

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Wheeler 17 (0:58, 1:55, 2:00).

Second Period—2, Los Angeles, Martinez 6 (Pearson, Kempe), 1:49 (pp., 3 shots-3 saves), 1:55 (Pearson, Martinez), 17:05 (pp., 4, Winnipeg, Byfuglien 4 (McCluskey, 1:58, 2:23).

Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Mitchell 3 (Pearson, Kempe), 6:17 (1:58, 2:00, 2:05), Brown 17 (Toffoli, Kopitar), 15:54, 7, Winnipeg, Laine 28 (Wheeler, Tillet), 19:11.

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 5-16-11-33.

Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 3 (Pearson, Kempe, MacKinnon), 17:05 (pp., 3 shots-3 saves), Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 3 (2:23, 2:23).

Goals—Los Angeles, Kuemper 10-1-2-3 (33 shots-30 saves), Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 3-0-2-3 (22-23).

A—15:32, 15:29(4), T—2:31.

Avanche 5, Canucks 4 (OT)

Colorado 0 3 1 1-4
Vancouver 0 4 0 0-4

First Period—1, Colorado, MacKinnon 1 (Eriksson, Sutter), 0:34, 2, Colorado, Joe 7 (Barrie, MacKinnon), 10:42, (pp., 3, Vancouver, Goldobin 3 (Baertschi, Pouliot), 13:01 (pp., 4, Vancouver, Horvat 16 (Boeser), 15:42, 6, Colorado, MacKinnon 1 (Barrie, MacKinnon), 17:07 (pp., 7, Colorado, Landeskog 20 (MacKinnon, 18:23).

Second Period—8, Colorado, Barrie 6 (Rantanen, Landeskog), 16:59 (pp., 3).

Third Period—8, Colorado, MacKinnon 25 (Rantanen, Barrie), 3:36 (pp., 2).

Shots on Goal—Colorado 12-10-2-22.

Power-play opportunities—Colorado 5 of 6, Vancouver 0 of 3.

Goals—Colorado, Varlamov 15-12-2 (29 shots-24 saves), Vancouver, Nilsson 7-10-2-2 (34-29).

A—18:10, 18:10(1), T—2:34.

Blue Jackets 2, Devils 1

Columbus 1 1 0 0-2
New Jersey 0 0 0-1

First Period—1, Columbus, Jenner 6 (Wereniski), 5:19.

Second Period—2, New Jersey, Hall 25 (Hisceney), 1:34, 3, Columbus, Harrington 2 (Panarin, Dubois), 13:10.

Shots on Goal—Columbus 13-2-4-19.

Goals—New Jersey 11-11-9-31.

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 3; New Jersey 0 of 2.

Goals—Columbus, Bobrovsky 25-19-5 (31 shots-30 saves), New Jersey, Kinkaid 13-8-2 (19-17).

A—14:04, 16:15(4), T—2:18.

Flyers 3, Canadiens 2 (OT)

Philadelphia 0 1 1 1-3
Montreal 1 0 1 0-2

First Period—1, Montreal, Petry 9 (Hudson, Alzner), 17:47.

Second Period—2, Philadelphia, Patrick 7 (Giroux, Voracek), 7:18 (pp., 1).

Third Period—3, Montreal, Byron 14 (Piekens, Gallagher), 8:45, 4, Philadelphia, Voracek 12 (Gostisbehere, Couturier), 18:35.

Shots on Goal—Philadelphia, Voracek 13 (Gostisbehere, Filipula), 1:26.

Shots on Goal—Montreal 8-13-6-27.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 0; Philadelphia 1 of 3.

Goals—Montreal, Price 15-22-6 (33 shots-30 saves), Philadelphia, von 2-1-0 (27-25).

A—19:36 (19:54), T—2:26.

Lightning 4, Capitals 2

Tampa Bay 3 0 1 4-4
Washington 0 0 1 0-2

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Point 22 (Callahan, Goulet), 2:20 (pp., 4, Tampa Bay, Kunitz 10 (Callahan, Sustr), 16:00, 3, Tampa Bay, Point 23 (Stralman), 17:52.

Second Period—4, Washington, Eller 12 (Connolly, Orlov), 9:32 (pp., 2).

Third Period—5, Washington, Ovechkin 36 (Niskanen), 11:02, 6, Tampa Bay, Kunitz 22 (Connolly), 12:58.

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 8-5-6-19.

Shots on Goal—Washington 8-14-15-37.

Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 1 of 2; Washington 1 of 1.

Goals—Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 35-12-2 (37 shots-30 saves), Washington, Hult 10 (Giroux, Voracek), 17:23.

A—18:506 (18:27), T—2:23.

Maple Leafs 1, Panthers 0

Florida 0 0 0 0-0
Toronto 0 0 0 0-1

First Period—1, Toronto, van Riemsdyk 25 (Brook, Gardiner), 19:31.

Shots on Goal—Florida 13-12-15-40.

Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 2; Toronto 0 of 2.

Goals—Florida, Luongo 7-7-1 (31 shots-30 saves), Toronto, Andersen 30-16-40.

A—18:961 (18:19), T—2:41.

Predators 3, Red Wings 2

Nashville 2 0 1 3-2
Detroit 0 0 1 0-2

First Period—1, Nashville, Hartnell 9 (Josi, Ellis), 4:18, 2, Nashville, Turris 10 (Josi, Smith), 9:35.

Second Period—3, Detroit, Athanasios 10 (Ellis, Subban), 4:50, 5, Detroit, Tarte 16 (Abdelkader, Athanasios), 7:54.

Shots on Goal—Nashville 17-7-29-49.

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 0 of 3; Detroit 0 of 2.

Goals—Nashville, Saros 6-5-16 (36 shots-34 saves), Detroit, Howard 16-19-6 (29-26).

A—19:515 (20:00), T—2:23.

Sharks 3, Blues 2

San Jose 0 0 3 0-3
St. Louis 0 0 2 0-2

First Period—1, San Jose, Gaudin 24 (Boedker, Braum), 6:32, 2, St. Louis, Backes 4 (Backes, Reimer), 8:22, 3, San Jose, Donskoi 11 (Vlasic, Couture), 12:05, 4, San Jose, Boedker 12 (Hansen, Tierney), 15:54, 5, St. Louis, Tarsenko 24 (Dunn), 19:36 (pp., 2).

Shots on Goal—San Jose 12-6-25-33.

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; St. Louis 1 of 3.

Goals—San Jose, Jones 19-15-13 (30 shots-31 saves), St. Louis, Hutton 15-6-2 (23-20).

A—17:297 (19:150), T—2:25.

Bruins 3, Oilers 2

Boston 0 0 3 0-3
Edmonton 1 1 0 0-2

First Period—1, Edmonton, Strome 9 (Simpson, Murray), 11:42.

Second Period—2, Edmonton, Khaira 9 (Simpson, Murray), 11:42, 5, Boston, Krejci 11 (Backes, Heinen), 18:56.

Shots on Goal—Boston 13-18-14-45.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 of 3; Edmonton 0 of 2.

Goals—Boston, Knudsson 13-3-20 (30 shots-28 saves), Edmonton, Talbot 20-23 (24-42).

A—18:347 (18:44), T—2:29.



Nick Wass/AP

Capitals right wing T.J. Oshie, center, competes for the puck against Tampa Bay Lightning center Yanni Gourde, left, and goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy during the third period of Tuesday's game in Washington.

Roundup

Point, Vasilevskiy lead Lightning past Capitals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The plan was simple: Score early against a weary opponent and ride the momentum the rest of the way.

The Tampa Bay Lightning carried out the strategy perfectly, turning a big first period into a huge 4-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night in a showdown between division leaders in the Eastern Conference.

Washington had played in Buffalo one day earlier, and that played significantly into the game-plan of Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper.

“The big thing for us is, we knew they played [Monday]. The key for that is you’ve got to get the lead,” Cooper said.

Brayden Point sandwiched two goals around a tally by Chris Kunitz to make it 3-0 after the first period. That proved to be enough of a cushion for goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, who stopped 35 shots to earn his NHL-leading 35th win.

“A good first period, and then we kind of hung on,” Point said.

After Alex Ovechkin notched his NHL-high 36th goal for Washington to make it 3-2 at 11:02 of the third, Nikita Kucherov clinched it with a breakaway goal with 7:02 remaining.

“I liked a lot what happened in the first period. I thought we deserved to have a 3-0 lead,” Cooper

said. “There are a lot of positives to take out of the game, especially the fact that we took two points.”

Flyers 3, Canadiens 2 (OT): Jakub Voracek scored the tying goal with 1:25 left in regulation and then got the game-winner 1:26 into overtime to lift host Philadelphia over Montreal.

Blue Jackets 2, Devils 1: Defenseman Scott Harrington broke a second-period tie with his second goal of the season, and slumping Columbus snapped a three-game skid and ended host New Jersey’s four-game winning streak.

Predators 3, Red Wings 2: Viktor Arvidsson scored his third goal in two games and visiting Nashville ended its seven-game skid to Detroit.

Sharks 3, Blues 2: Logan Couture and Mikkel Boedker each had a goal and an assist, sending visiting San Jose to a victory over slumping St. Louis.

Kings 4, Jets 3: Dion Phaneuf scored on the power play for his third goal in four games with his new team, helping visiting Los Angeles cap a seven-game road trip with a win over Winnipeg.

Maple Leafs 1, Panthers 0: Frederik Andersen made 40 saves, James van Riemsdyk scored his 25th goal with 28 seconds left in the first period and surging Toronto blanked visiting Florida.

Bruins 3, Oilers 2: David Krejci broke a tie with 1:04 remaining and visiting Boston rallied for three goals in the third period to beat Edmonton.

Avanche 5, Canucks 4 (OT): Nathan MacKinnon scored his team’s fifth power-play goal of the game 3:36 into overtime, lifting visiting Colorado past Vancouver to cap a comeback from three goals down.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/HIGH SCHOOL

Top 25 roundup

Spartans clinch snare of Big Ten

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Miles Bridges grabbed the Big Ten trophy, lifted it and flashed an ear-to-ear grin.

Bridges scored 19 points, leading No. 2 Michigan State to an 81-61 win over Illinois on Tuesday night to seal a share of the Big Ten championship.

The Spartans (27-3, 15-2 Big Ten) have won 11 straight and can claim the conference title outright if they win at Wisconsin on Sunday.

Bridges turned down a chance to make millions in the NBA this season to be a college sophomore in part to chase championships, and now he has one.

"That's why I came back," he said. "Memories that will last a lifetime."

It is clear, though, he's not satisfied with a Big Ten title.

"We're not done yet," Bridges told the Breslin Center crowd after the game.

Coach Tom Izzo, likewise, isn't content with winning his eighth Big Ten title.

"It's one of those years, I'm not satisfied with that one," Izzo said.

The Fighting Illini (13-16, 3-13) were coming off a win over Nebraska and looked like they were building momentum, competing well enough to trail the Spartans by just three points at halftime.

Michigan State dashed their hopes of pulling off an upset by opening the second half with a 12-1 run to take control and went on to build 20-plus-point leads.

"They don't have any weaknesses," Illinois coach Brad Underwood said. "I think they're really capable of winning the whole thing."

The cushion allowed Izzo to put his three seniors in and out of the game in the final minutes. That gave each of them an opportunity to kiss the school's logo at midcourt and get an ovation from the crowd, following a tradition Shawn Rеспert started in 1995 during Izzo's final season as an assistant under Jud Heathcote.

It was a feel-good night on a campus still reeling because of a crisis over how the school handled allegations against disgraced former sports doctor Larry Nassar. An ESPN report has also stirred Michigan State's basketball and football programs by questioning how Izzo and Mark Dantonio have dealt with allegations against their players.

"I hope you enjoyed this team and I hope they brought a little bit of a bright light," Izzo said to fans during a postgame ceremony that included raising a Big Ten title banner.

Joshua Langford had 16 points. Cassius Winston scored 12 and Jaren Jackson had eight points



Al Goldis/AP

Michigan State's Miles Bridges carries the Big Ten regular-season championship trophy following the team's 81-61 win over Illinois on Tuesday in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State sealed at least a tie for the season title.

and five blocks for the Spartans. Illinois' Leron Black scored 20 points and Trent Frazier had 14 points on 4-for-13 shooting.

No. 16 Ohio State 79, Rutgers 52: C.J. Jackson scored 18 points to help the host Buckeyes rout the Scarlet Knights.

Kaleb Wesson added 14, and Kam Williams, playing his last home game, had 13 as Ohio State (23-7, 14-3 Big Ten) got a feel-good win on senior night, coming on the heels of tough road losses to Penn State and Michigan that dropped it out of first place in the conference.

No. 18 Rhode Island 95, La Salle 93 (OT): Jeff Dowtin scored 25 points, including four key free throws in the final seconds, as the Rams clinched a share of the Atlantic 10 regular season title with a hard-fought road victory.

Rhode Island (22-4, 14-1 Atlantic 10) trailed 30-18 midway through the first half before going on a 14-0 run and taking a 39-37 halftime lead.

No. 21 West Virginia 71, Baylor 60: Jevon Carter and Esa Ahmad both scored 15 points as the visiting Mountaineers ended the Bears' five-game winning streak that had been the longest in the Big 12 Conference.

West Virginia (20-8, 9-6 Big 12) was pretty much in control throughout the game, and led by as many as 28 points early in the second half.

Baylor (17-11, 7-8) managed to get within 55-43 with after Terry Maston's jumper. But that was the last of eight straight points for the Bears that capped off a 21-5 run.



Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

Lakers' Allison Stangl drives against Wiesbaden's Amari Robinson on Wednesday in a Division I game at the DODEA Europe basketball championships in Wiesbaden, Germany. Lakenheath won 26-25.

DODEA Europe basketball championships scoreboard

Boys	
Division I	
Wednesday's games	
Pool A	
Wiesbaden 55, Naples 28	
Stuttgart 51, Lakenheath 31	
Wiesbaden 65, Lakenheath 43	
Stuttgart 57, Naples 42; Wiesbaden, Stuttgart clinch spots in semifinals	
Pool B	
Kaiserslautern 62, SHAPE 23	
Vilsek 54, Vicenza 28	
Ramstein 36, SHAPE 34	
Kaiserslautern 56, Vilsek 38	
Ramstein 54, Vicenza 45 OT	
Thursday's games	
Pool A	
1 Wiesbaden vs. 5 Stuttgart, 9:45 a.m.	
4 Lakenheath vs. 8 Naples, 4 p.m.	
Pool B	
6 Vilsek vs. 9 SHAPE, 8:30 a.m.	
3 Kaiserslautern vs. 7 Vicenza, 12:15 p.m.	
2 Ramstein vs. 6 Vilsek, 1:30 p.m.	
2 Ramstein vs. 3 Kaiserslautern, 5:15 p.m.	
7 Vicenza vs. 9 SHAPE, 6:30 p.m.	
Division II	
Wednesday's games	
Pool A	
Black Forest Academy 70, AFNORTH 45	
Aviano 39, AOSR 23	
BFA 42, Aviano 33	
1 Black Forest vs. 5 AOSR, 2:45 p.m.	
Pool B	
Bahrain 54, Marymount 51	
4 Alconbury vs. 6 Baumholder, 2:45 p.m.	
Spangdahlem 57, Bahrain 53	
Thursday's games	
Pool A	
4 Aviano vs. 8 AFNORTH, 11 a.m.	
1 Baumholder vs. 5 Marymount, 9:45 a.m.	
2 Spangdahlem vs. 6 Marymount, 9:45 a.m.	
3 Rota vs. 7 Bahrain, 12:15 p.m.	
2 Spangdahlem vs. 3 Rota, 4 p.m.	
Division II	
Wednesday's games	
(Round-robin)	
Hohenfels 46, Alconbury 24	
Baumholder 42, Brussels 31	
Ansbach 41, Sigonella 38	
Thursday's games	
(Round-robin)	
3 Sigonella vs. 4 Alconbury, 8:30 a.m.	
1 Ansbach vs. 5 Brussels, 11 a.m.	
2 Hohenfels vs. 3 Sigonella, 1:30 p.m.	
4 Alconbury vs. 6 Baumholder, 2:45 p.m.	
1 Ansbach vs. 6 Baumholder, 5:15 p.m.	
2 Hohenfels vs. 5 Brussels, 6:30 p.m.	
Girls	
Division I	
Wednesday's games	
Pool A	
Naples 55, Vicenza 29	
Vilsek 24, Kaiserslautern 13	
Kaiserslautern 26, Naples 32	
Vilsek 28, Vicenza 22	
Pool B	
Ramstein 36, SHAPE 40	
Lakenheath 26, Wiesbaden 25	
Stuttgart 31, SHAPE 19	



Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

AOSR's Brando Monetti takes an off-balance, underhand shot against Aviano's Matthew Robertson, left, and Mason Shine in a Division II game at the DODEA Europe basketball championships in Wiesbaden, Germany on Wednesday. Aviano won 39-23.

Ramstein 42, Lakenheath 37		AFNORTH 24, Spangdahlem 22	
Stuttgart 38, Wiesbaden 35		Thursday's games	
Thursday's games		Pool A	
Pool A		1 BFA vs. 5 Marymount, 12:15 p.m.	
1 Naples vs. 5 Vilsek, 12:15 p.m.		4 AOSR vs. 8 Aviano, 2:45 p.m.	
At Wiesbaden High School		Pool B	
4 Kaiserslautern vs. 8 Vicenza, 4 p.m.		3 Rota vs. 7 Spangdahlem, 8:30 a.m.	
Pool B		2 AFNORTH vs. 6 Bahrain, 11 a.m.	
6 Lakenheath vs. 9 SHAPE, 8:30 a.m.		2 AFNORTH vs. 3 Rota, 6:30 p.m.	
3 Ramstein vs. 7 Wiesbaden, 11 a.m.		Division II	
2 Stuttgart vs. 3 Ramstein, 2:45 p.m.		Wednesday's games	
7 Wiesbaden vs. 9 SHAPE, 4 p.m.		(Round-robin)	
2 Stuttgart vs. 6 Lakenheath, 6:30 p.m.		Brussels 23, Baumholder 10	
Thursday's games		Hohenfels 39, Alconbury 22	
Pool A		Sigonella 29, Ansbach 18	
BFA 50, Aviano 14		Thursday's games	
Marymount 20, AOSR 12		1 Ansbach vs. 5 Brussels, 9:45 a.m.	
BFA 49, AOSR 10		1 Ansbach vs. 6 Baumholder, 1:30 p.m.	
5 Marymount vs. 8 Aviano, late		2 Hohenfels vs. 5 Brussels, 5:15 p.m.	
Spangdahlem 26, Bahrain 25		3 Sigonella vs. 4 Alconbury, 9:45 a.m.	
Bahrain 46, Rota 28		2 Hohenfels vs. 3 Sigonella, 1:30 p.m.	

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Dallas Mavericks team owner Mark Cuban shouts in the direction of an official during a game against the Phoenix Suns, in Dallas on Dec. 14, 2015. The Mavericks have hired outside counsel to investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct by former team president Terdemus Ussery in a Sports Illustrated report that described a hostile workplace for women. Cuban told the magazine that the team was establishing a hotline for counseling and support services for past and current employees.

Mavs accused of misconduct

Team investigating allegations

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks have hired outside counsel to investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct by former team president Terdemus Ussery in a Sports Illustrated report that described a hostile workplace for women.

Ussery was accused of making sexually suggestive remarks to several women. He spent 18 years with the team before going to the sports apparel company Under Armour in 2015. Ussery, who was investigated by the team over similar claims in 1998, denied the allegations in a statement to SI.

The report said team website reporter Earl Sneed was twice accused of domestic assault while working for the Mavericks, including a guilty plea in a case that was dismissed when he met the conditions of the agreement.

The team said Sneed had been fired, and Mavericks owner Mark Cuban told SI that he fired human resources director Buddy Pittman after learning details of the magazine's report. Pittman and Sneed declined to comment to SI.

The NBA said the Mavericks had informed the league of the allegations involving Ussery and Sneed.

"This alleged conduct runs counter to the steadfast commitment of the NBA and its teams to

foster safe, respectful and welcoming workplaces for all employees," the league said. "Such behavior is completely unacceptable and we will closely monitor the independent investigation into this matter."

SI contacted six female former Mavericks or American Airlines Center employees who claimed they left the sports sector because of a structure that left them feeling vulnerable and devalued while protecting powerful men who misbehaved. A male former department head said there was "built-in protection for a lot of men."

A woman who had recently been hired as a support staffer said Ussery made sexually suggestive remarks to her in the media dining room before a game during the 2010-11 season, when the Mavericks won their only NBA championship.

"Obviously there's a problem in the Mavericks organization and we've got to fix it," Cuban told the magazine. "I'm embarrassed, to be honest with you, that it happened under my ownership, and it needs to be fixed."

Two women claimed Ussery harassed them for years, incidents that ranged from inappropriate remarks to requests for sex to touching women's calves and thighs during meetings.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	16	.719	—
Boston	40	19	.678	2
Philadelphia	30	25	.545	10
New York	23	36	.390	19
Brooklyn	19	40	.322	23
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	35	24	.579	—
Miami	30	28	.517	3½
Charlotte	24	33	.421	9
Orlando	18	39	.316	15
Atlanta	18	41	.305	16
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	34	22	.607	—
Oklahoma City	33	26	.559	2
Milwaukee	32	25	.561	2½
Detroit	28	29	.491	6½
Chicago	20	37	.351	14½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	13	.772	—
San Antonio	35	24	.593	10
New Orleans	31	26	.544	13
Memphis	18	38	.321	25½
Dallas	18	40	.310	26½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	36	25	.590	—
Oklahoma City	33	26	.559	2
Denver	32	26	.552	2½
Portland	32	26	.552	2½
Utah	30	28	.517	4½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	34	14	.759	—
L.A. Clippers	30	26	.536	13
L.A. Lakers	23	34	.404	20½
Sacramento	18	39	.316	25½
Phoenix	18	41	.305	26½

No games scheduled

No games scheduled

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

Brooklyn at Charlotte

New York at Orlando

Philadelphia at Chicago

Washington at Cleveland

Oklahoma City at Sacramento

L.A. Clippers at Golden State

Saturday's games

Atlanta at Indiana

Boston at Detroit

Charlotte at Washington

Milwaukee at Toronto

Memphis at Memphis

Miami at New Orleans

Minnesota at Houston

L.A. Clippers at Phoenix

Portland at Utah

San Antonio at Denver

Dallas at L.A. Lakers

Sunday's games

Orlando at Philadelphia

Boston at New York

Memphis at Miami

Oklahoma City at Golden State

Chicago at Minnesota

Dallas at Utah

Portland at Phoenix

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento

San Antonio at Cleveland

Houston at Denver

Philadelphia at Washington

Briefly

MLB changes rule on trips to mound

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Managers or coaches must make a pitching change if they head to the mound for the seventh time in a game under baseball's new pace of play rules.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and executive Joe Torre explained some of the parameters Tuesday, one day after MLB imposed stricter limits on mound visits in an effort to speed up games.

"I don't see pace of games issues as harsh or not harsh," Manfred said during his annual visit to the Cactus League. "I see them as a fan friendly issue."

Torre noted that umpires will keep players from proceeding to see the pitcher if six mound visits have already occurred.

MLB has the right to institute rules changes absent an agreement with one year notice and made proposals during the 2016-17 offseason for a pitch clock and more restrictions on mound visits.

Regarding slow-moving free agency, Manfred said MLB is pleased to see more signings in recent days.

"At the end of the day we want players signed, we want the best players playing the game," he said. "It's always our goal."

In other MLB news:

■ The Arizona Diamondbacks sent infielder Brandon Drury to the New York Yankees and received outfielder Steven Souza Jr. from the Tampa Bay Rays in a three-team trade Tuesday that included five players plus two to be named later.

The deal was announced one day after former Diamondbacks slugger J.D. Martinez agreed to a \$110 million, five-year contract with Boston, pending a physical. Arizona has moved quickly to fill that hole in the outfield, signing speedy Jarrod Dyson to a \$7.5 million, two-year contract on Monday before trading for Souza.

Souza will be the starter at one corner outfield position, with Dyson subbing at all three spots.

Drury gives the Yankees a new option at third base or second base, where New York was projected to start a pair of rookies. Top pitching prospect Anthony Banda goes from Arizona to the Rays, who also get minor league second baseman Nick Solak from the Yankees and two players to be named from the Diamondbacks. Minor league right-hander Taylor Widener moves from New York to Arizona.

■ The Baltimore Orioles signed pitcher Chris Tillman to a \$3 million, one-year contract that includes performance bonuses.

Tillman was 1-7 with a 7.84 ERA in 19 starts and five relief appearances last year. He is the second starter added by the Orioles in the past week by right-hander Andrew Cashner.

Tillman likely will join right-handers Dylan Bundy, Kevin Gausman and Cashner in the rotation.

■ Outfielder Cameron Maybin has signed a one-year contract with the Miami Marlins, rejoining the team where he played in 2008-10.

Maybin gives the young, rebuilding Marlins much-needed experience, along with flexibility because he can play all three outfield positions. He was with the Angels and Astros last year and helped Houston win the World Series.

He batted only .228 in 2017 but had 33 steals to rank second in the American League. He joined the Marlins for Wednesday's spring training workout.

■ The San Francisco Giants say Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda remains hospitalized in critical condition after a cardiac incident.

The Giants gave an update Wednesday on the condition of the 80-year-old Cepeda. He was taken to a Bay Area hospital late Monday.

■ Houston Astros minor league pitcher Forrest Whitley has been suspended for 50 games without pay for a violation of baseball's minor league drug prevention and treatment program.

Whitley, who is considered one of Houston's top prospects, is on the roster for Double-A Corpus Christi. His suspension will begin at the start of the Texas League season.

The 20-year-old Whitely was selected with the 17th overall pick in the 2016 amateur player draft by the Astros. The right-hander played at three minor league levels last season, finishing with Corpus Christi where he had a 1.84 ERA in four games.

Panthers re-hire Hurney as full-time GM

The Panthers have re-hired Marty Hurney as their full-time general manager.

This will be Hurney's second stint as Carolina's general manager, having previously worked for the Panthers from 1998-2012, beginning as GM in 2002. Hurney also worked with the Panthers since last July as the interim general manager.

Panthers COO Tina Becker says Hurney did an "exceptional" job in helping the Panthers to an 11-5 season last year and that "Marty's guidance and vision throughout would the foundation for this team."

The Panthers reinstated Hurney as interim general manager last week after an NFL investigation found no wrongdoing into charges of harassment by his ex-wife.

Hurney had been on a paid leave of absence during the investigation.

WINTER OLYMPICS

US claims bobsled silver

American women second behind surprising Germans

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Women's bobsledding has a new star, and a surprise Olympic champion.

Germany's Mariama Jamanka — a winner of exactly zero major international races in her life until now — drove to gold in the women's bobsled event at the Pyeongchang Games on Wednesday night, adding to her country's dominant showing at the sliding track in these Olympics.

Jamanka and brakeman Lisa Buckwitz finished their four runs in 3 minutes, 22.45 seconds. Elana Meyers Taylor and Lauren Gibbs of the U.S. were second in 3:22.52, the 0.07-second margin being the closest between first and second in any Olympic women's bobsled race.

Canada's Kaillie Humphries teamed with Phyllicia George to get third in 3:22.89.

It was the third consecutive medal for both Meyers Taylor and Humphries. Meyers Taylor won bronze as a push athlete in 2010 and silver as a driver in 2014; Humphries won gold in each of those Olympic races.

Jamanka showed absolute nerves of steel in the ultimate moment to win the 18th Olympic gold medal in German bobsled history, the second by a woman.

And there's no question who the best team at the sliding track has been in these Pyeongchang Games. With eight of the nine events now complete in bobsled, skeleton and luge, Germany has won five golds and will be a favorite to grab yet another in the four-man event that ends on the final day of these games Sunday.

Stephanie Schneider of Germany was fourth, and Jamie Greubel Poser of the U.S. took fifth.

Nigeria, with pilot Sean Augun and brakewomen Akuma Omegwa and Ngezi Onwumere — Omegwa was ill and couldn't race Wednesday, so she was subbed out — finished last in the 20-sled field, nearly four seconds behind 19th-place Jamaica.

The Nigerians were the first sled from an Afri-



ANDY WONG/AP

Driver Elana Meyers Taylor, front, and Lauren Gibbs of the United States celebrate after their silver medal-winning heat in the women's two-man bobsled final Wednesday at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

can nation to compete in women's bobsled at the Olympics.

Meyers Taylor and Jamanka were the last two sleds down the track, and the only two real remaining contenders for gold by that point in the race.

Meyers Taylor finished in 50.73 seconds, jumped out of her sled, threw her arms in the air and celebrated with Gibbs. And then everyone turned their attention to the top of the track, to see if Jamanka could pull off the win.

It wasn't the greatest start for the Germans, and they trailed Meyers Taylor by 0.13 seconds in one of the early splits. But Jamanka picked the perfect line and kept picking up speed, overtaking Meyers Taylor's time in one of the final turns.

yeongchang Games.

He also became the fourth male athlete to win three gold medals at the Winter Games before turning 22, joining American speedskater Eric Heiden, Austrian skier Toni Sailer and short-track speedskater Viktor Ahn, who previously competed for South Korea but now races for Russia.

Freestyle skiing: Brady Leman earned Olympic gold for Canada in men's skicross, beating Marc Bischofberger of Switzerland in a wild final at Phoenix Snow Park.

Leman took the lead early during the last round and then held off Bischofberger in a two-man duel after Canada's Kevin Drury and Russian athlete Sergey Ridzik collided early on.

Ridzik picked himself up and raced down for bronze well behind the leaders. Russian athletes are still without a gold medal as the Pyeongchang Games enter their final days.

The event calls for side-by-side racing over bumps, jumps and dips down the mountain at speeds over 40 mph.

Scoreboard

Medals table

Through Feb. 21 76 medal events				
Nation	G	S	B	Total
Norway	13	11	9	33
Germany	12	7	7	26
Canada	9	5	7	21
Netherlands	6	6	6	18
United States	4	6	6	16
France	4	4	5	14
OA Russia	4	4	5	13
Japan	3	5	3	11
Australia	3	3	2	8
South Korea	4	3	2	9
Italy	3	2	4	9
Sweden	3	2	4	9
Switzerland	2	3	5	10
Czech Republic	1	2	3	6
Britain	1	0	3	4
Finland	0	0	4	4
Slovakia	1	2	0	3
Australia	0	2	1	3
Belarus	1	1	0	2
Poland	1	0	1	2
Ukraine	0	0	2	2
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1

Wednesday's medalists

ALPINE SKIING
Men's Downhill
GOLD—Sofia Goggia, Italy
SILVER—Ragnhild Mowinckel, Norway
BRONZE—Lindsey Vonn, United States

Bobsled
Women's Two-Man
GOLD—Germany 1 (Mariama Jamanka, Lisa Buckwitz)

ALPINE SKIING
GOLD—United States 2 (Elana Meyers Taylor, Lauren Gibbs)

ALPINE SKIING
GOLD—Canada 1 (Phyllicia George, Kaillie Humphries)

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Men's Team Sprint
GOLD—Norway (Martin Johnsrund Sundby, Johannes Hoesflot Klaeboe)

SILVER—OA Russia (Alexander Bolshunov, Denis Spitsov)

BRONZE—France (Maurice Manificat, Richard Joue)

Women's Team Sprint
GOLD—United States (Kikkan Randall, Jilreid Johnson)

SILVER—Sweden (Charlotte Kalla, Stina Nilsson)

BRONZE—Norway (Marit Bjergesen, Maiken Caspersen Foss

Men's Ski Cross
GOLD—Brady Leman, Canada
SILVER—Marc Bischofberger, Switzerland

BRONZE—Sergey Ridzik, OA Russia

Speedskating
GOLD—Norway (Havard Boko, Sverre Lunde Pedersen, Sjoen Myrnes, Nilsen, Sindre Henriksen)

SILVER—South Korea (Lee Seung-Hoon, Joo Hyung-Joon, Kim Min-Seok, Chung Woong Ja)

BRONZE—Netherlands (Sven Kramer, Jan Blokhuisen, Patrick Roest)

Women's Pursuit
GOLD—Japan (Miho Takagi, Ayaka Kikuchi, Nana Takagi, Ayano Sato)

SILVER—Netherlands (Ireen Wust, Marrit Leenstra, Antoinette de Jong, Lotte Van Beek)

BRONZE—United States (Mia Manganello, Heather Bergsma, Brittany Bowe, Carlijn Schoutens)

Wednesday's results

ALPINE SKIING
Men's Downhill
1. (5) Sofia Goggia, Italy, 3:22.22

2. (19) Ragnhild Mowinckel, Norway, 3:39.71

3. (17) Lindsey Vonn, United States, 3:39.69

4. (3) Tina Weirather, Liechtenstein, 3:39.85

5. (14) Alice McKennis, United States, 4:00.21

6. (2) Corinne Stur, Switzerland, 4:00.21

7. (8) Brezzy Johnson, United States, 4:13.00

8. (13) Michelle Gisin, Switzerland, 4:40.55

Other U.S. Finishers
15. (10) Lauren Ross, United States, 4:41.10

Bobsled
Women's Two-Man
Final Ranking

1. Germany 1 (Mariama Jamanka, Lisa Buckwitz), 3:22.45

2. United States 2 (Elana Meyers Taylor, Lauren Gibbs), 3:22.52

3. Canada 1 (Phyllicia George, Kaillie Humphries), 3:22.89

4. Germany 2 (Stephanie Schneider, Annika Dreier), 3:22.97

5. United States 1 (Jamie Greubel Poser, Ayana Evans), 3:23.02

6. Switzerland 1 (Alina Rissling, Heather Moise), 3:23.63

7. (23) Christine De Bruin, Melissa Lotholz), 3:28.19

8. Britain 1 (Mica McNeill, Mica Moore), 3:24.07

Cross-country Skiing
Men's Team Sprint
Final

1. Norway (Martin Johnsrund Sundby, Johannes Hoesflot Klaeboe), 15:56.26

2. OA Russia (Alexander Bolshunov, Denis Spitsov), 15:57.37

3. France (Maurice Manificat, Richard Joue), 15:58.28

4. Sweden (Marcus Hellner, Calle Halfvarsson), 15:59.33

5. Italy (Dietmar Nockler, Federico Pellegrino), 16:14.81

6. United States (Simeon Hamilton, Erik Bjornsen), 16:16.98

7. Czech Republic (Alex Razym, Martin Jaks), 16:24.83

8. Canada (Alex Harvey, Len Valjas), 16:31.86

Women's Team Sprint
1. United States (Kikkan Randall, Jessa Dickins), 15:56.66

2. Sweden (Charlotte Kalla, Stina Nilsson), 15:56.66

3. Norway (Marit Bjergesen, Maiken Caspersen Foss), 15:59.44

4. Switzerland (Laurine Van der Graaff, Nadine Fahrndrich), 16:17.79

5. Finland (Anniina Jaakkola, Krista Parmaksalo), 16:19.18

6. Slovenia (Alenka Cebasek, Anamarija Lampic), 16:28.24

7. Poland (Justyna Kowalczyk, Sylwia Jaskiewicz), 16:32.48

8. France (Coraline Hugue, Aureore Jean), 16:32.49

FIGURE SKATING
Women's Short Program
1. Alina Zagitova, OA Russia, 82.92

2. Evgenia Medvedeva, OA Russia, 81.61

3. Kaetlyn Osmond, Canada, 78.87

4. Satoko Miyahara, Japan, 75.94

5. Kaori Sakamoto, Japan, 73.18

6. Carolina Kostner, Italy, 73.15

7. Gabrielle Daleman, Canada, 68.90

8. Choi Da-bin, South Korea, 67.77

9. Mirai Nagasu, United States, 66.93

10. Armin Niederer, Switzerland, 65.90

11. Bradie Tennell, United States, 64.01

FIGURE SKATING
Men's Ski Cross
Semifinals

1. Brady Leman, Canada (Q)

2. Marc Bischofberger, Switzerland (Q)

3. Armin Niederer, Switzerland

4. Filip Filis, Slovenia

5. David Duncan, Canada

6. Armin Niederer, Switzerland

7. Armin Niederer, Switzerland

8. Filip Filis, Slovenia

9. David Duncan, Canada

1. Brady Leman, Canada

2. Marc Bischofberger, Switzerland

3. Sergey Ridzik, OA Russia

NR. Kevin Drury, Canada, DNF

Speedskating
Men's Team Pursuit
Final 2

4. (W) Canada (Denny Morrison, Ted Jan Blokhuisen, Sjoen Myrnes, Donnelly), 3:42.16

5. (L) Netherlands (Brian Hansen, Emiel Lehtman, Jonathan Garrow, Simeon Myrnes), 3:50.77

Final C
3. (W) Italy (Andrea Giovannini, Nicola Tumello, Roberto Baggio), DSO

4. (L) Japan (Ryosuke Tsuchiya, Shane Williamson, Seitaro Ichinohe), 3:41.62

Final B
2. (W) Netherlands (Sven Kramer, Jan Blokhuisen, Patrick Roest), 3:38.40

3. (L) Hirsch Zeland (Shane Dobbin, Reyon Kay, Peter Michalek), 3:43.54

Final A
4. (W) Norway (Havard Boko, Sverre Lunde Pedersen, Sjoen Myrnes, Nilsen, Sindre Henriksen), 3:37.32

5. (L) South Korea (Lee Seung-Hoon, Joo Hyung-Joon, Kim Min-Seok, Chung Woong Ja), 3:38.52

Final D
4. (W) Poland (Lukasz Piotrowski, Natalia Czerwonka, Katarzyna Bachleda-Czaska, Karolina Bosiek), 3:03.11

5. (L) Netherlands (Ireen Wust, Marrit Leenstra, Antoinette de Jong, Lotte Van Beek), 2:55.48

Final C
3. (W) China (Li De Hao, Hao Jiachen, Liu Jing, Han Mei), 3:00.04

4. (L) Germany (Claudia Pecheff, Gabriele Schwaiger, Susanne Dobbins, Michelle Uthoff), 3:04.67

Final B
2. (W) United States (Mia Manganello, Heather Bergsma, Brittany Bowe), 2:59.27

3. (L) Canada (Josiane Blondon, Isabelle Weidemann, Ivonne Morrison), 2:59.72

Final A
4. (W) Japan (Miho Takagi, Ayaka Kikuchi, Nana Takagi, Ayano Sato), 2:53.89

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WINTER OLYMPICS



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Jessica Diggins celebrates after crossing the finish line first during the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final on Wednesday. Diggins and teammate Kikkan Randall won gold.

Over: Only other US medal came in 1976

FROM BACK PAGE

through all of the tough times, competing with the American cross-country ski team since the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. She said it was also fitting that the American women won their first medal in a team event.

"I got to see in 2013 when we won the world championships ... that team gold is worth far more than any individual accolade," the 35-year-old Randall said. "What really kept me going over the last four years was trying to contribute toward a team medal. To do it with Jessie one more time is just amazing."

So move over Bill Koch, you have company — finally.

Koch was the only other American to win a medal in cross-country, taking home silver at the 1976 Innsbruck Games.

Diggins and Randall ended that 42-year drought and surely gave a huge boost to all of the young cross-country skiers back home in the United States.

"Hearing it out loud, it still doesn't feel real," Randall said.

"It's what I've been working on for 20 years and with this team for the last five years and, wow, it's just so fun to put it together tonight — finally."

Added Diggins: "It feels unreal. I can't believe it just happened."

It meant more that their teammates were there to celebrate — and family, too.

Diggins' father, Clay, said he had a feeling this was the day the drought would end. Diggins had three top-six finishes at the Olympics and Randall was skiing well, too. And he said the entire American women's cross-country team came out to practice on Tuesday morning with Diggins and Randall.

"There were only two of them skiing today, but the entire team came out to support them — practicing tags and everything," Clay Diggins said. "That to me is pretty cool. They wanted to be there for them, for the team. And I think Kikkan and Jess felt that

Bjoergen makes history with 14th medal

From wire reports

Marit Bjoergen and Kikkan Randall have shared a special bond since competing against each other at their first Olympics in Salt Lake City 16 years ago.

On Wednesday, their relationship turned historic.

Bjoergen and Norway took bronze in the event, giving her 14 career Olympic medals, one more than countryman biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen. Bjoergen, 37, now has four medals in Pyeongchang (one gold, one silver and two bronze) and has a chance at one more in Sunday's 30-kilometer mass start. For her Olympic career, which began at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, Bjoergen has seven gold medals, four silver and three bronze.

She took gold in the women's 4x5-kilometer relay, silver in the 15-kilometer skiathlon and bronze in the 10-kilometer freestyle. She is hoping for her eighth career gold in her final Olympic race, the 30-kilometer mass start.

"If someone had told me back in 2002 (at the Salt Lake City Games) that I would still be standing here I would have told them that it's not possible," Bjoergen said. "But I am here



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Norway's Marit Bjoergen earned her 14th career Olympic medal Wednesday, the most of any Winter Olympian.

and still fighting for medals."

She said at some point — after the Games are over — she will think about what she has accomplished.

"It's hard to understand," Bjoergen said. "I think when you are still racing you have to focus on the next race and you don't look behind you. So I think when I stop I will think about what I have done. But I'm very proud of what I have done."

(support) on the course."

If not, they certainly felt it after the race.

Diggins screamed as she crossed the finish line, setting off a huge celebration for the red, white and blue. Her American teammates were jumping and hugging each other along the fence line that guarded the track.

"Our whole team had that belief we could win and everyone was there screaming," Diggins said of the final sprint. "I don't know if you have that many teams where everyone is out there on the fence yelling their faces off. I just think we had a lot of support behind us."

Charlotte Kalla sensed the

Americans were extra motivated for a medal, saying she saw it in their eyes before the race and felt it when Randall stayed on her heels on the second-to-last lap.

"Olympic champions, they are so worth it," the Swede said. "They were amazing today. I'm really impressed with them."

Sweden took silver and Norway finished with a bronze, which allowed Marit Bjoergen to secure her record 14th medal at the Winter Games.

Bjoergen said she was happy to see the Americans win this one.

"Those two, they are happy girls," Bjoergen said. "And I think that is important for our sport that the USA is there."

US trio recovers after bad starts

Women bobble opening jumps in short

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Bradie Tennell fell during her opening jump combination at the Pyeongchang Olympics, a mistake so rare that the reigning U.S. champion couldn't remember the last time it happened.

Mirai Nagasu fell trying to land her signature triple axel, which she pulled off in the team event but is so hard that nobody else in the competition attempts it.

Karen Chen bobbled her opening triple lutz, which was supposed to feed into a triple toe, forcing her to adjust the rest of her routine to squeeze in another combination jump.

All three Americans showed tremendous resilience in holding their programs together.

Tennell, the first skater on the ice for the short program Wednesday, wound up with the lead for more than two hours with her score of 64.01 points. Nagasu had 66.93 and Chen totaled 65.90, leaving all three out of medal contention but proud of the way they fought back.

"I think it's just that each of us have been through so many experiences and ups and downs. We each struggle with our individual obstacles," Chen said. "I'm sure they're all really different but the same in many ways, and I think that's given us character, to never give up and keep going."

Alina Zagitova led heading into Friday's free skate with a record 82.92 points, followed by Russian teammate Evgenia Medvedeva with 81.61. Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond was third with 78.87.

Nagasu wound up ninth, with her teammates right behind.

Tennell landed everything during her early morning practice — in fact, she had landed just about everything since arriving in South Korea — and that had given her tremendous confidence heading into her short program at

Gangneung Ice Arena.

But after landing her opening triple lutz, Tennell was unable to hold onto her triple toe loop, falling on the second half of a combination that had become so familiar.

"It was definitely unexpected. I don't remember the last time I made a mistake in my short program, especially on the jumps," Tennell said. "But things happen. We're all human. We all make mistakes. You just have to get up and keep going. I'm definitely a fighter. I do not give up."

She certainly did not, landing a triple loop and double axel later in her program.

Tennell had to go hours before the rest of the contenders because starting groups are determined by world rankings. She spent most of the past couple of years injured, and did not participate in some of the biggest competitions. The result was a 4 a.m. wakeup for her Olympic short program.

"I'm not very fond of being in the first warmup, but it is what it is," Tennell said. "We all have our own challenges. You just have to skate the best you can."

Nagasu's challenge was to land the forward-starting, 3½-revolution jump that causes plenty of men trouble. She nailed the triple axel during her early practice, though she also stepped out trying it two other times, and again during her warmup in front of her coach, Tom Zakrajsek.

When the music to "Nocturne" started, Nagasu took a deep breath and began building up speed. She then unleashed a spin with so much energy she actually over-rotated, sending her to the ice.

"Sometimes," she said, "I just let my nerves push me a little too far."

Like her teammate, Nagasu picked herself up and pressed on. She nailed a triple-flip-triple toe combination along with a triple loop, and her strong spins and step sequence finished out the program.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

American Mirai Nagasu falls on a triple axel during the women's short program Wednesday in Gangneung, South Korea.

WINTER OLYMPICS



RONALD MARTINEZ, POOL/AP

The Czech Republic's Petr Koukal, right, scores a goal past U.S. goalie Ryan Zapolski in a penalty shootout during the quarterfinal round Wednesday in Gangneung, South Korea. The Czechs won 3-2.

Czechs eliminate US men

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Instead of waiting for his turn for this Olympic shootout, T.J. Oshie was sitting at home along with the rest of the NHL.

Four years after his shootout heroics in Sochi, Oshie could only watch helplessly halfway around the world as Chris Bourque, Ryan Donato, Marc Arcobello, Troy Terry and Bobby Butler got their chances against the Czech Republic with a berth in the semifinals on the line. And it was Ryan Zapolski in net instead of Jonathan Quick, who was back in North America on the bench for the Los Angeles Kings' 60th game in an NHL regular season that rolled on, right through the Olympics.

Little-known Czech Republic goaltender Pavel Francouz stopped all five Americans in the shootout and Petr Koukal scored as the United States was eliminated with a 3-2 loss Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

Francouz did his best impression of legendary countryman Dominik Hasek, though Donato also had him beat and lost the puck. Gone by a matter of inches was a chance to knot the shootout at 1-all, and now the Americans will head home while the Czechs get a semifinal game against the powerhouse Russians.

"It always comes down to the smallest plays and I think at the end of the day you've got to be able to capitalize on those plays to win a game," said Donato, who scored his fifth goal of the tournament in regulation. "It didn't go the way I wanted it to and we wanted it to, but it comes down to those things."

The memorable U.S. win over Russia in the Sochi shootout came in group play and had far less at stake. The U.S. reached the semifinals that time by beating an outmanned Czech Republic team 5-2

Men's playoff round

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Quarterfinals
At Kwandong Hockey Centre
Germany 4, Sweden 3
Czech Republic 3, United States 2, SO
OA Russia 5, Norway 1
Canada 1, Finland 0
Friday, Feb. 23
At Gangneung Hockey Centre
Semifinals
Czech Rep. vs. OA Russia
Germany vs. Canada
Saturday, Feb. 24
At Gangneung Hockey Centre
Bronze Medal
Sunday, Feb. 25
At Gangneung Hockey Centre
Gold Medal

on goals by James van Riemsdyk, Dustin Brown, David Backes, Zack Parise and Phil Kessel. Had the NHL gone to South Korea, the U.S. team likely would have overflowed with talented players such as Auston Matthews, Johnny Gaudreau, Patrick Kane, Jack Eichel, Shayne Gostisbehere and Seth Jones.

This team had the best young talent it could select in Terry, Donato and fellow college player Jordan Greenway.

"I think the players that were here did a phenomenal job," coach and former NHL player Tony Granato said. "It was a team that was built to represent our country the way it was represented. Play hard, compete, leave it all on the ice, represent us that way. We did that. So we have a lot to be proud of."

Zapolski got better throughout the Olympics, and he stopped 18 of 20 shots in regulation and overtime against the Czechs. The Americans were inches away from a victory several times — when Brian O'Neill clanked it off the bottom of the post with 2:40 left in the third period, when Bobby Sanguinetti's shot left the puck sitting in the crease in the final moments of overtime, when Donato couldn't get the puck past Francouz at the side of the net.

And then came the shootout and another close call for Donato.

"He was making pretty good deke," said Francouz, who plays for Traktor Chelyabinsk in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League. "He was all over me already, but he kind of lost the puck in the end, so I was happy he didn't score."

The Czech Republic is into the Olympic semifinals for the first time since 2006, when it won bronze. Francouz now hopes to repeat what Hasek and the Czechs did in 1998 in Nagano when they won gold in what was the first Olympic tournament with NHL players.

That chance is gone for the U.S., which improved throughout the tournament but looked somewhat fatigued after needing to play Slovakia in the qualification round Tuesday while the Czechs rested. Even with that, the Americans were right there with the chance to advance and it might've come down to a choice Francouz made for his glove hand as a child growing up in Plzen, Czech Republic. Francouz catches with his right hand, a rarity in hockey, and that meant Terry couldn't use his favorite shootout move.

"It's a little different for the move I usually do for the five hole," Terry said of his try as his parents and brother watched nervously from the stands. "I thought I put a pretty good fake in and deked to my backhand. If I would've been able to get it up, I think I had it over his pad, but I wasn't able to."

Before the shootout, Oshie — who went 4-for-6 in his attempts against Russia's Sergei Bobrovsky in Sochi — tweeted "Terry! Terry! Terry!" After playing nearly 20 minutes for the Washington Capitals before settling in to follow Team USA, that's all he could do.

"Sorry to let him down on that," Terry said. "But the goalie made a good save."

US women chase elusive gold again

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Dani Cameranesi watched on TV when the Americans blew a 2-0 lead with less than a minute left before losing the gold medal game to Canada four years ago at the Sochi Olympics.

She uses the word "devastating" to sum up the 3-2 overtime loss.

Now the Americans are back with another chance at the gold that has eluded them since they won it all in 1998, when women's hockey made its debut at Nagano.

And their archival is in the way again. The showdown with Canada is Thursday, and the Americans know exactly what this moment means.

"Any time you can win gold, I mean it's game-changing," U.S. forward Hilary Knight said. "It's game-changing for our sport."

Canada has won 24 consecutive Olympic games and four straight gold medals. Only the United States in basketball has dominated a women's team sport more thoroughly with a streak of six straight golds.

"Maybe I'm biased, but one of the best rivest in sports and especially in our game," said Canadian forward Emily Clark, who played college hockey at Wisconsin. "So we obviously have a lot on the line, mostly pride. All of us are going to bring our best game."

The Canadians haven't lost even a single Olympic game since the 1998 Nagano final — won by the United States. Their streak stands at 24 consecutive games, including a 2-1 win over the United States to cap play a week ago. They've also won five straight over the Americans, including four exhibition victories in December while prepping for the Olympics.

Yet the Americans have owned the world championships, winning the last four and eight of the last 10. That has only made the U.S. drought at the Olympics all the more noticeable and making this game even more special.

"It's been something I've been dreaming about since I was little,"

Women's medal round

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Bronze Medal
At Kwandong Hockey Centre
Finland 3, OA Russia 2
Gold Medal
At Gangneung Hockey Centre
United States vs. Canada

Cameranesi said. "So it means a lot, and to be here with this group of girls and to be with them all year has really been an honor."

She is one of 13 players on the U.S. roster who know the Sochi loss only as history, not something they lived through.

Defenceman Kacey Bellamy, among the 10 Americans who did, thinks the newcomers will be key in keeping the Canadians from a fifth straight gold medal.

"They don't know the heart-break," Bellamy said. "We've tried to explain to them what it felt like, but think it's great that they haven't felt that. And they bring us a lot of energy to the team, and we trust every single one of them."

Two-time U.S. captain Meghan Duggan said the Americans looked at themselves in the mirror after the Sochi loss to learn what they needed to take away from it. She sees Sochi as a long time ago.

"We're focused on this Olympics," she said. "It's four years later. We got a new team. We got ... a lot of youth, excitement, energy, fresh blood and we're ready to go."

Under U.S. coach Robb Stauber, the Americans studiously have avoided looking at the big picture of chasing gold. Instead, they've focused on the old cliché of one day, one practice, one shift on the ice at a time. They've also made sure to enjoy the experience of being at the Games more, too.

Monique Lamoureux-Morando said the Americans tried to act like they had been there before in Sochi. This time around, they've made sure to enjoy the games as if this was their first Olympics.

"There's that balance of knowing when to shut it down, take it in and go see events and enjoy being a spectator at the Olympics," Lamoureux-Morando said.



JULIO CORTES/AP

American Hilary Knight, left, blocks a shot by Canada as goalie Maddie Rooney, right, protects the net against Canada's Melodie Daoust on Feb. 15. The teams meet again in the gold medal game.

WINTER OLYMPICS



Italy's Sofia Goggia celebrates Wednesday after winning gold in the women's downhill at the Winter Olympics in Jeongseon, South Korea. Goggia said after the race her goal was "to beat Lindsey" Vonn.

Italy's Goggia golden in women's downhill

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

JEONGSEON, South Korea — Lindsey Vonn knew that the bronze medal she earned Wednesday came in her final Olympic downhill, the signature event of her singular career. She knew that, but she didn't have an easy time processing it.

That's why the words "probably" and "most likely" kept slipping into her sentences. Why she marked the occasion by posing with dozens of folks for a group photo near the finish line. Why she engaged in a series of warm, lengthy hugs — with her sisters, with U.S. coaches; with the winner, her good friend Sofia Goggia of Italy; with the runner-up, Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway. With, seemingly, anyone she could grab hold of.

"I wish I could keep going. I wish this wasn't my last Olympics, but it is," Vonn said, looking down at the snow underfoot and shaking her head, "so I'm trying to accept that and deal with the emotions of that and enjoy the ride."

Goggia finished in 1 minute, 39.22 seconds, just 0.09 seconds faster than Mowinckel. Vonn was 0.47 seconds off Goggia's pace.

"I came here ... with one goal: to beat Lindsey," Goggia said.

Yes, for years now, Vonn has been the standard by which all other female ski racers are judged — and judge themselves. And as much as ski racing has meant to Vonn, and as much as Vonn has meant to her sport, she knows that this is, indeed, goodbye.



Lindsey Vonn, 33, earned a bronze medal in her final Olympic downhill.

She is 33, the oldest woman to ever win an Alpine medal at a Winter Games. Vonn's total of three includes downhill gold and super-G bronze at Vancouver in 2010.

The American wasn't at Sochi in 2014, instead "on the couch, watching," she said, after two operations to repair torn ligaments in her right knee. She's endured a lengthy list of injuries.

"It's taken its toll. And that's why I can't keep ski racing, you know?" she said with a sigh. "I think my injuries made me stronger. I do. Because I wouldn't be the same person that I am today. When you're young, you ski and you win and you don't appreciate

things. I've been in the fence so many times. I know so many doctors on a first-name basis that it's ridiculous."

All of the rehabbing, all of the recoveries — all worth it.

"Every single meal she's eaten for the last two years is to build up to this moment. Every single gym workout. You don't realize the amount of every single thing she's done every day for the last eight years has been for this day and that 2 minutes," said Vonn's sister, Karin Kildow. "The emotion of it is kind of overwhelming."

Afterward, competitors spoke glowingly about Vonn's influence and legacy.

Fifth-place finisher Alice McKennis of the U.S. praised Vonn's "day-to-day perseverance."

Under a bright sun and on a course that was not very steep, Goggia was better than anyone at a hill where she beat Vonn in two World Cup races last March. This time, Goggia was not great at the outset, nearly fell backward while landing a jump midway through, then was terrific on the final third of the course. When her run ended, she shrugged.

"I knew I had a competitive time, but I didn't know if it would be enough for gold," Goggia said. "You've seen me more excited after a third-place World Cup finish."

Vonn went two racers later, the seventh starter overall, and kept losing ground throughout.

When Vonn crossed the line, she put her head back, spread her arms wide, then juttied an index finger toward her pal. Goggia exhaled.

Commentary

Bronze as good as gold to Vonn

BY TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

JEONGSEON, South Korea — Over coffee last November at Lindsey Vonn's home in Colorado, Sofia Goggia of Italy asked her friend for some advice.

How does she handle the pressure? How does she deal with the expectations?

Vonn didn't hesitate to answer. An honest answer, and one the new Olympic downhill champion seemed to take to heart.

"It probably helped her (win)," Vonn said with a wry smile.

Maybe, but on this brilliantly sunny day on the slopes at Jeongseon Alpine Centre that seemed OK to Vonn, too. Just getting on the podium herself with her family there to watch seemed like a win by itself to the American who dominated the slopes for so many years.

At the age of 33 there aren't too many downhills left for Vonn. As much as she was hurting after this one, she savored what will almost surely be her last Olympic medal, even though she will race again Thursday in the combined.

Yes, the medal was bronze. But the moment was golden.

It's not quite the end of the line for Vonn, but the line is in sight. Her body has been beaten down by so many crashes, so many spills, and so much stress that the next World Cup season could be her last.

"An emotional day all around because this is probably my last Olympic downhill," Vonn said. "But I'm on the podium, so I'm very happy."

But to bring home a medal — the oldest woman to ever medal in the downhill — made it all worthwhile.

Vonn fought back tears afterward trying to describe it all. There would surely be even more tears afterward when she reunited with her family, who all came to watch.

"I love racing in the Olympics," Vonn said. "I love racing. I love being in the starting gate, with so much pressure, you feel suffocated, but somehow you will yourself to give everything you have and you throw yourself down the mountain in hopes of a medal. I'm absolutely going to miss it. I wish I could keep skiing. I wish that my body didn't hurt as bad as it does."

Her silver turned to bronze when Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway turned in a surprise silver-medal run as the 19th racer on the course.

To Vonn, it was as good as gold. "It feels amazing," she said. "Damn! Sochi. I was in the couch watching the Olympics after a second ACL surgery. I have had a lot of ups and downs, mostly downs in that time. But you know I'm here and I'm on the Olympic podium again."



LUCA BRUNO/AP

American Lindsey Vonn competes in the women's downhill Wednesday at the Winter Olympics in Jeongseon, South Korea.

SPORTS



Under investigation
Mavs look into allegations of workplace misconduct » **Page 27**

WINTER OLYMPICS



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Americans Jessica Diggins, left, and Kikkan Randall celebrate after winning the gold medal in the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final Wednesday.

BREAKTHROUGH

Diggins, Randall golden for first US medal ever in women's cross-country skiing

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — As she headed up the steepest, most grueling hill of her life in third place, Jessica Diggins thought to herself just winning an Olympic medal was no longer good enough.

She wanted more. She wanted gold.

Diggins dug deep, remembering all the years of training she had put in, and of all her teammates waiting for her at the finish line to bring home the United States' first

Inside:

■ Norway's Bjørgen claims record 14th medal, Page 29

medal ever in women's cross-country skiing — and then she let loose.

Diggins reached the peak of the hill in third place but sped past Norway's Maiken Caspersen Falla on the last big, winding downhill. She rounded the final corner and took dead aim at Sweden's Stina Nilsson on

the final 100-meter homestretch.

The crowd in the grandstand was on its feet sensing history, and at that moment Diggins said she felt "unstoppable."

"Around that final corner I felt like I was uncoiling a spring and letting it go," Diggins said. "Giving it everything I had, digging as deep as I could and putting it all out there. When your team is counting on you, you don't give up ever."

Diggins certainly didn't give up.

She blew by Nilsson in a blur to capture gold in the team sprint, bringing the Unit-

ed States its first gold medal ever in cross-country skiing.

As she crossed the line she collapsed in exhaustion as teammate Kikkan Randall tackled her in the snow. Randall lay on top of a crying Diggins shaking her ski jacket in pure excitement and utter joy.

"That feeling of being able to cross the line and have Kikkan tackle me was the coolest thing ever," Diggins said.

It was fitting Randall was her partner on the two-woman team. She has been

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Vonn settles for bronze in final Olympic downhill » **Page 31**

Czechs oust US men in shootout » **Page 30**

Meyers Taylor earns silver in bobsled » **Page 28**

